TRAVEL LIKE THE STARS DO
SOME POPULAR CELEB GO-TO SPOTS {page 22}

OH BABY
BIEBER FEVER HITS ROGERS ARENA {page 3}

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KEVIN DREWS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Police divers prepare yesterday to leave for the scene of a submerged ambulance on Kennedy Lake, near Tofino.

Paramedics killed after plunge into lake

Ambulance fell down 60-metre cliff and was found submerged in nine metres of water Accident happened along narrow, winding portion of Highway 4

KRISTEN THOMPSON
@METRONEWS.CA

The bodies of two paramedics were pulled from a lake between Port Alberni and Tofino yesterday after their ambulance went off the road and plunged down a steep cliff.

RCMP were called at around 7:30 a.m. to a report the vehicle, which had left at 4:20 a.m. en route home to Tofino, was overdue, said Sgt. Kevin Murray.

"Patrols of Highway 4 east of the Tofino-Ucluelet junction located the ambulance vehicle submerged in Kennedy Lake," he said.

Search and Rescue volunteers and RCMP divers began searching the shoreline with the help of a Cormorant helicopter from Canadian Forces Base Comox.

"It appears that the vehicle went off the road down a steep embankment coming to rest in approximately 30 feet of water," Murray said.

BJ Chute, spokesperson for Ambulance Paramedics of B.C., flew to the scene yesterday afternoon.

"Our role is to debrief the crews, the families and community," he said. "We'll start the process if the families do wish to go through with a memorial. Our main focus is going to be looking after the needs of our members in that area."

Investigation

- An investigation will be launched into the cause of the accident.
- The identities of the paramedics had not been released by press time.

Canucks can't tame Wild

Vancouver gets run over on the road {page 31}

New memorial for Terry Fox

Author Douglas Coupland to design monument {pages 6 & 7}

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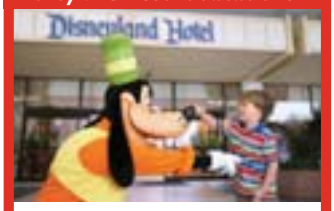

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Disneyland

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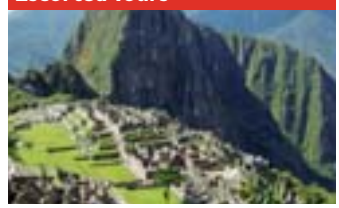

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Get a Move on with those 'staches

JEFF HODSON
@METRONEWS.CA

An annual campaign to raise funds and awareness for prostate cancer is back, and it is bigger and hairier than ever.

Movember, a fundraising campaign in which men grow mustaches and collect pledges throughout November, grew to a bushy 35,158 participants last year (who raised almost $8 million) from a scraggly 2,408 participants (and $550,000) in 2007.

"It's easy," explained Alan Bedingfield, who gave his title as MoBro. "There's no training for a run. If you don't know how to swing a golf club, you can still participate. And it's fun."

The power of the campaign, he said, is in its use of humour to get men talking about an important health issue, which is something many men are reluctant to do.

Prostate cancer affects one in six men, he added, around the same rate that breast cancer affects women.

"People think that breast cancer is a way bigger issue than prostate cancer and that is because women have done such an amazing job speaking up ... this is our way of speaking up. We call it the hairy ribbon."

Visit movember.com for more information.

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

▶ Alan Bedingfield shows off his mustache yesterday.

Bieber fever takes over Rogers Arena

No mention from pop superstar about last week's rumoured incident

Justin Bieber dazzled a deafening crowd during a sold-out concert in Vancouver last night, but the teen heartthrob made no mention of reports he was involved in an altercation that's being investigated by the RCMP.

The 16-year-old from Stratford, Ont., had fans shrieking every second he was on the Rogers Arena stage. Most wore Bieber T-shirts, some clutched "Bieber Fever" signs, while others had their arms, legs and even faces painted in the teen's honour.

The legion of fans cheering his every move was a welcome change for Bieber, whose name has been in the headlines for different reasons of late.

"People are obviously going to make things up about him, making it worse than it might be."
BIEBER FAN BROOKLYN FRY, 18

RCMP are investigating allegations a 12-year-old boy was assaulted by another boy at a laser tag centre in Richmond last week. Media reports have suggested Bieber was the second boy.

RCMP have said the 12-year-old's father filed a complaint.

Police have not publicly identified Bieber as having anything to do with the altercation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Pop superstar Justin Bieber performs last night at Rogers Arena.

1 news

News on the move

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How the Chile mine rescue set the gold standard for staging a disaster relief spectacle. More at metronews.ca/spindoctor

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Global cycling conference wheeling to Vancouver in 2012

Vancouver has won its bid to host the international Velo-City bicycling conference in 2012 — the first time in 16 years that the conference will be held outside of Europe.

Manfred Neun, president of the European Cycling Federation, made the announcement yesterday at Vancouver City Hall.

Mayor Gregor Robertson said he expects the conference to draw at least 1,500 participants, including municipal politicians and cycling advocates from around the world.

Robertson said it should help make Vancouver more bike friendly.

"Our goal is to keep improving the bicycle infrastructure so that we make it safer and enable more people to make that choice (to ride bicycles), particularly those who aren't riding right now."

He estimated the conference will cost Vancouver somewhere in the tens of thousands of dollars, adding that he expects it to have a significant positive economic impact on the city. STEPHANIE ORFORD

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Advocates pitch tents to back homeless plan bill

Metro Vancouver began counting its homeless every three years in 2002 The Lower Mainland has nearly 2,000 homeless and rising

SARAH N. FITZGERALD/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

▶ Gillian Palejko at Victory Square yesterday.

SARAH N. FITZGERALD
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

Anti-poverty and housing rights activists pitched red tents in Victory Square yesterday to symbolize Canada's housing and homelessness crisis as well as to pledge support for Bill C-304.

Homelessness "is a health and human rights tragedy," said Am Johal of the Impact On Communities Coalition.

Bill C-304, introduced by East Vancouver NDP MP Libby Davies, aims to ensure secure, adequate, accessible and affordable housing for all Canadians. If passed, it would enable higher-level governments to develop national strategies for ending homelessness.

"Without the federal government ... it's going to be very difficult to reduce (homelessness)," added Johal.

The event's goal was to encourage locals to contact Vancouver's Conservative MPs and urge them to support Bill C-304.

"Everyone needs a home," said Gillian Palejko, a member of the North Shore Shalom Seekers.

A national affordable housing plan has been needed since 1993, when federal funding was pulled from co-op and non-profit housing programs, said Adriane Carr, deputy leader of the federal Green party.

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News in brief

Protest hut coming back?

STRUCTURE. The Falun Gong protest structure may soon be back outside China's consulate on Granville Street after B.C.'s highest court ruled it a legitimate form of expression. The City of Vancouver ordered the hut removed last year, claiming it violated bylaws.
KRISTEN THOMPSON

Handwriting the key clue?

PORNOGRAPHY. A man accused of sending explicit letters about sex with children to Kamloops schools was arrested after someone recognized his handwriting, a B.C. Supreme Court judge has heard.

Lowell Swetman, 46, is on trial for distributing child pornography, criminal harassment and mailing obscene materials.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

How cold was the water?

ACCUSATION. A man accused of exposing himself to children and adults in Tofino has been identified as a 23-year-old professional surfer from Australia. Mitch Coleborn, the 124th-ranked surfer in the world, was on Vancouver Island last week competing in the O'Neill Cold Water Classic.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fiery mystery

DEATH. Delta police discovered the charred body of a man inside a burning business in Delta, and say they're treating the death as suspicious. It's unknown if the victim died before the fire or if the blaze was arson.
KRISTEN THOMPSON

Dog dragged

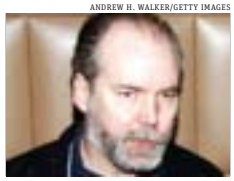
COMOX. A dog survived being dragged behind a car for about 10 kilometres. RCMP say the driver was unaware it was tied to the car.
SARAH N. FITZGERALD

Coupland's tribute to Terry

The statue is slated to be completed next summer • It will be constructed within B.C. Place's $300,000 art budget

JEFF HODSON
@METRONEWS.CA

ANDREW H. WALKER/GETTY IMAGES



"Terry is someone you could relate to completely. I mean, he could have been in your grad class for all you know — and he did this. It means that anything is possible."
DOUGLAS COUPLAND

Vancouver author and artist Douglas Coupland is excited that Terry Fox's family has tasked him with creating a new monument to the national hero that will be displayed in the plaza outside B.C. Place.

The existing tan-coloured, lion-crested arch will be torn down to allow heavy equipment onto Terry Fox Plaza for the construction of B.C. Place's new $563-million retractable roof. The arch's etched-steel panels will be given to Fox's family.

"He really is the only myth that we've created in Canada in 100 years," said Coupland in an interview from P.E.I.

"What we have to do next has to reflect the unstoppability of Terry's story and its importance to humanity — not just Vancouver or Canada. Whatever we do has to live up to that. It's the best kind of pressure."

PavCo president and CEO Warren Buckley said Coupland's preliminary sketches include Terry running, Terry tying up his shoe and Terry dipping his hand into the ocean.

"It's art," said Buckley. "I don't know that you're ever going to satisfy everyone. But we're pretty comfortable that with the Fox family's participation it will be a true reflection of the individual himself."

The existing monument was erected in 1983 and "was from a different time and place before people realized how big Terry Fox's story was to become," said Coupland, who wrote the book Terry for the 25th anniversary of the Marathon of Hope.

"It'll be quite simple, subtle," Buckley said. "But I think it will be a true depiction of the memory that we have of this very special person."

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JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

▶ PavCo CEO Warren Buckley at Terry Fox Plaza yesterday.

NDP: Taxpayers shouldn't pay for politicians' crimes

Taxpayers should not have to foot the legal bills for government staff members guilty of political corruption, said B.C. NDP Leader Carole James.

Former Liberal staff members Dave Basi and Bob Virk pleaded guilty on Monday to political corruption surrounding the 2003 sale of B.C. Rail, bringing their seven-year, $6-million trial to an abrupt end.

The government's policy is to pay for staff legal costs during trial, but not if the charged individuals are found guilty, said James.

"It's unbelievable to think that two individuals who pled guilty ... now get all their legal costs covered," she added.

James said that if the government did agree to cover their costs before Basi and Virk pleaded guilty, it would appear that the Liberals were using taxpayer money to bring the court case to a swift end.

She questioned the reasoning because the trial was bringing to light details of the deal.

On Monday, B.C. Attorney General Mike de Jong denied the NDP's request for a public inquiry on the sale of B.C. Rail.

STEPHANIE ORFORD

Premier reacts

A heated and unsympathetic Premier Gordon Campbell yesterday placed the blame for the B.C. Rail scandal completely on the two former government aides who he says acted alone and admitted their guilt.

"Two people acted on their own and acted criminally," said Campbell. "For seven years they've claimed innocence and their lawyers have pretended that they knew they were innocent when they knew they were guilty."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Chile investigates possible negligence by mine company

A Chilean legislative commission is investigating reports that mining operators ignored danger warnings from a man who was later among 33 trapped when a mine collapsed.

Deputy Carlos Vilches, a commission member, said yesterday that miner Juan Illanes has alleged that operators refused his request to leave the mine three hours before it collapsed on Aug. 5. Illanes reportedly had heard loud sounds that indicated a collapse could be brewing.

Vilches spoke at the opening of a public exhibit of the capsule used in last week's rescue of the miners after 69 days underground, an achievement that served as a rallying point of national pride. The exhibit, outside Chile's presidential palace, is drawing hundreds.

Vilches said he would call Illanes and other miners to testify before the commission.

A spokesperson for the San Esteban mining company that owns the mine said the firm would have no comment pending possible legal proceedings.

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France. Retirement protests

▶ Riot police officers detain a youth during clashes in Lyon, France, yesterday.

LAURENT CIPRIANI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

France's youth enraged

Masked youths clashed with police and set fires in cities across France yesterday as protests against a proposed hike in the retirement age took an increasingly radical turn. Hundreds of flights were cancelled, long lines formed at gas stations and train service in many regions was cut in half.

Court hears ugly details of colonel's sex crimes

◗ Videos of two killings were not shown in court ◗ Instead, Crown read out detailed account of attacks

Warning: Graphic details may disturb some readers.

Whether his victims fought him off or complied with every perverted command he gave them, convicted sex killer Col. Russell Williams showed no mercy to the two women who begged for their lives before he brutally murdered them, court heard yesterday.

Williams, 47, sat silent, his head bowed low as the Crown laid out the gruesome final hours of Cpl. Marie-France Comeau and Jessica Lloyd — every moment recorded with photographs and videotape.

Comeau fought him until the end — even as she struggled, bloody and weak, against the duct tape he put over her mouth and the rope that he used to bind her hands.

His next victim, 27-year-old Lloyd, did everything Williams asked of her in an effort not to "upset" him, the Crown said.

FACEBOOK.COM

▶ Jessica Lloyd

Williams broke into her Belleville home in January, tied her up and raped her repeatedly for hours.

Lloyd was so terrified she apologized when she failed to move into the sexual position Williams demanded. She even asked permission to lower her legs after he had raped her. It had no effect.

At one point, Lloyd pleaded: "If I die, will you make sure my mom knows that I love her?"

That heart-wrenching detail, read aloud in court, left many in the room sobbing loudly.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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665 Robson Street
1191 Robson Street
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2959 West Broadway
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Militants attack parliament in Chechnya, kill 6

Attack follows a bombing in the Moscow subway in March and a car bombing last month in a Vladikavkaz

Islamic insurgents attacked Chechnya's parliament yesterday in a brazen suicide raid that left six people dead and 17 wounded, defying Kremlin claims of stability in the volatile southern region.

In a clear challenge to Moscow, the raid occurred just as Russia's interior minister was visiting the provincial capital of Grozny.

Once the three attackers got inside the tightly guarded complex, one militant blew himself up at the doors and another two ran into the building shouting "God is great!" in Arabic as they opened fire on the people inside, police said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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VAL CHIRKOV

Enjoying the Stillness

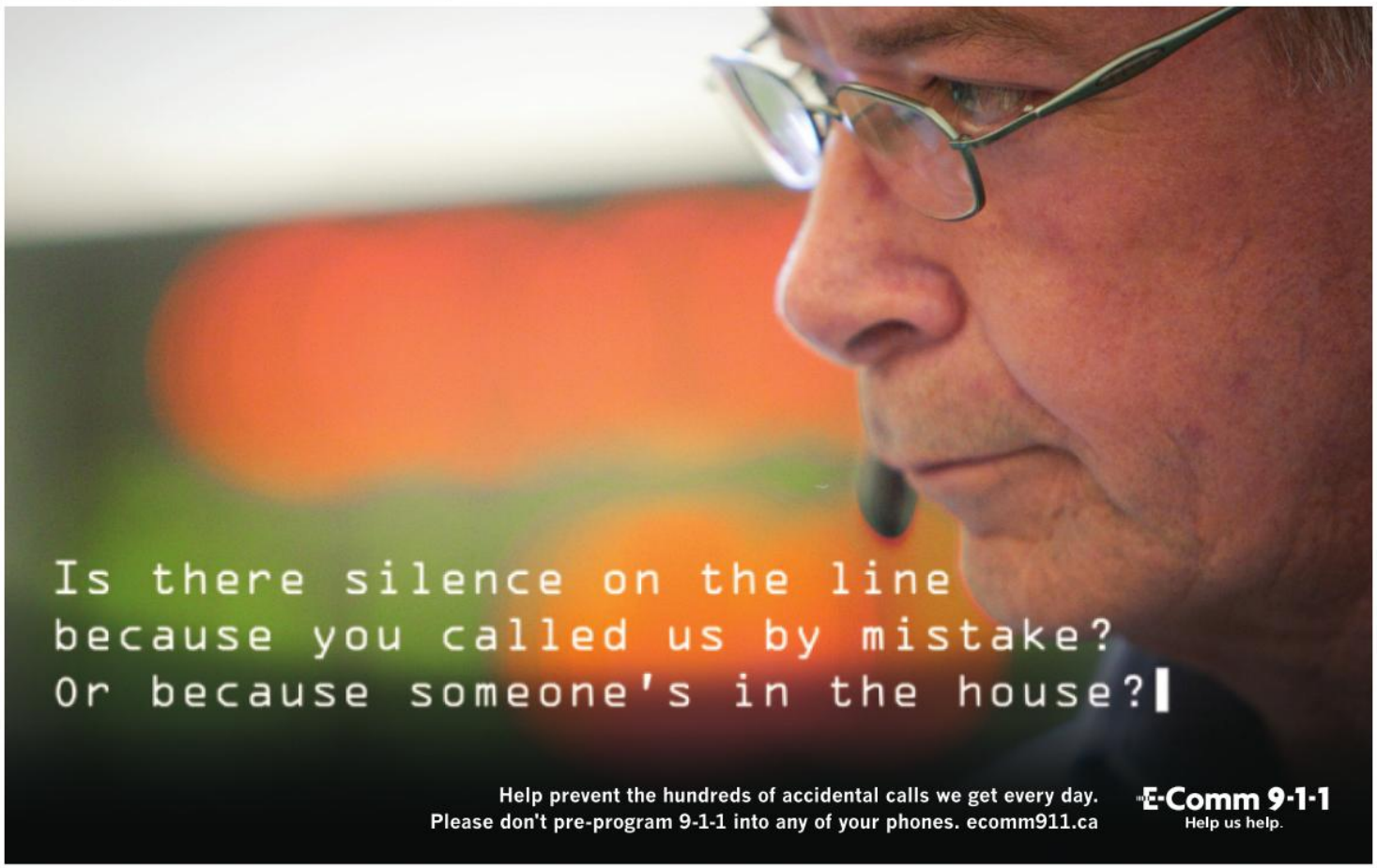
Today's photo of the day is by Canadian Val Chirkov and was submitted in the Favourite Spot category. The photo is titled Stillness. Enter your photos today and view more pictures at metrophotochallenge.ca.

metro PHOTO CHALLENGE

Costly crime agenda

Don Head, commissioner of Correctional Service Canada, says he will have to hire thousands more staff, as well as expand existing prisons to handle the extra 4,478 inmates that will be the result of the Conservatives' crime legislation. THE CANADIAN PRESS

$2 billion
The commissioner says he'll need to spend about $2 billion to deal with the influx of prisoners.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911 If you dial by accident, stay on the line so we can ensure you're okay.

Calgary's new mayor bucks stereotypes

Issue of religion did not really enter into the campaign debate

Cowtown has a new mayor.

He's young, funny, educated, a visible minority and a Muslim.

Naheed Nenshi was still basking yesterday in his somewhat unexpected election victory the night before.

And while much was being made of Nenshi being what's believed to be the first Muslim mayor in a major Canadian city, experts, supporters and even leaders in Calgary's Muslim community were downplaying the role Nenshi's faith played in his election.

"I think it's an overblown situation," said Calgary Imam Syed Soharwardy, the founder of the Islamic Supreme Council of Canada.

JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Naheed Nenshi

"He's a Muslim. Yes, well so what? Why does it have to be identified that we have a Muslim mayor? I think the most important thing is we have a new person who has been elected by Calgarians."

Still, Soharwardy couldn't deny the impact Nenshi's election will have on Calgary's cowboy conservative stereotype.

"This sends a very strong message to our country," he said. "I think it shows we are not a redneck city. It shows that we are not biased, that we are not just Christian, we are multifaith and everyone has an equal opportunity."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A SPECIAL REPORT PRESENTED BY ING DIRECT

JOIN THE MONEY MOVEMENT:

Looking at all your Mortgage Options Could Mean Big Savings in the Long-term

"A mortgage is the biggest investment many Canadians make in their lives. Take the time to educate yourself about the array of options available when shopping for your mortgage."
~ Peter Aceto, President & CEO at ING DIRECT

While record low interest rates have spurred many Canadians to get a mortgage, there are several factors beyond the rate that should be considered. Some of these include fixed vs. variable, prepayment options, amortization options and payment frequencies. Knowing the details behind these factors will help you determine the best fit for your lifestyle and wallet.

Because most mortgages account for a large chunk of your take home pay, making small adjustments in the way you pay off your mortgage could save you thousands of dollars over the long term.

The most practical way to save over the long term, after making the biggest down payment you can afford, is to increase your regular mortgage payment by a small amount while increasing the frequency of your payments.

Assuming you have a $312,500 house with a $250,000 mortgage at a 5% fixed rate, and 25 year amortization, you could save over $30,000 in interest and be mortgage free almost four years sooner by choosing an accelerated payment and increasing each regular bi-weekly payment by $57.

To recap, here are five important things to remember when shopping for your mortgage:

1. Do your research; know your options and all the parts that make up your mortgage
2. Make the largest down payment that you can
3. Shop around for the best interest rate
4. Choose a higher and accelerated payment frequency
5. Increase your payments, even by a small amount

To find out more about ING DIRECT's Money Movement, check out our Facebook fanpage (facebook.com/SuperStarSaver) or our Twitter page (twitter.com/SuperStarSaver). You can also drop in to the ING DIRECT Save Your Money Café at 466 Howe Street, here in Vancouver.

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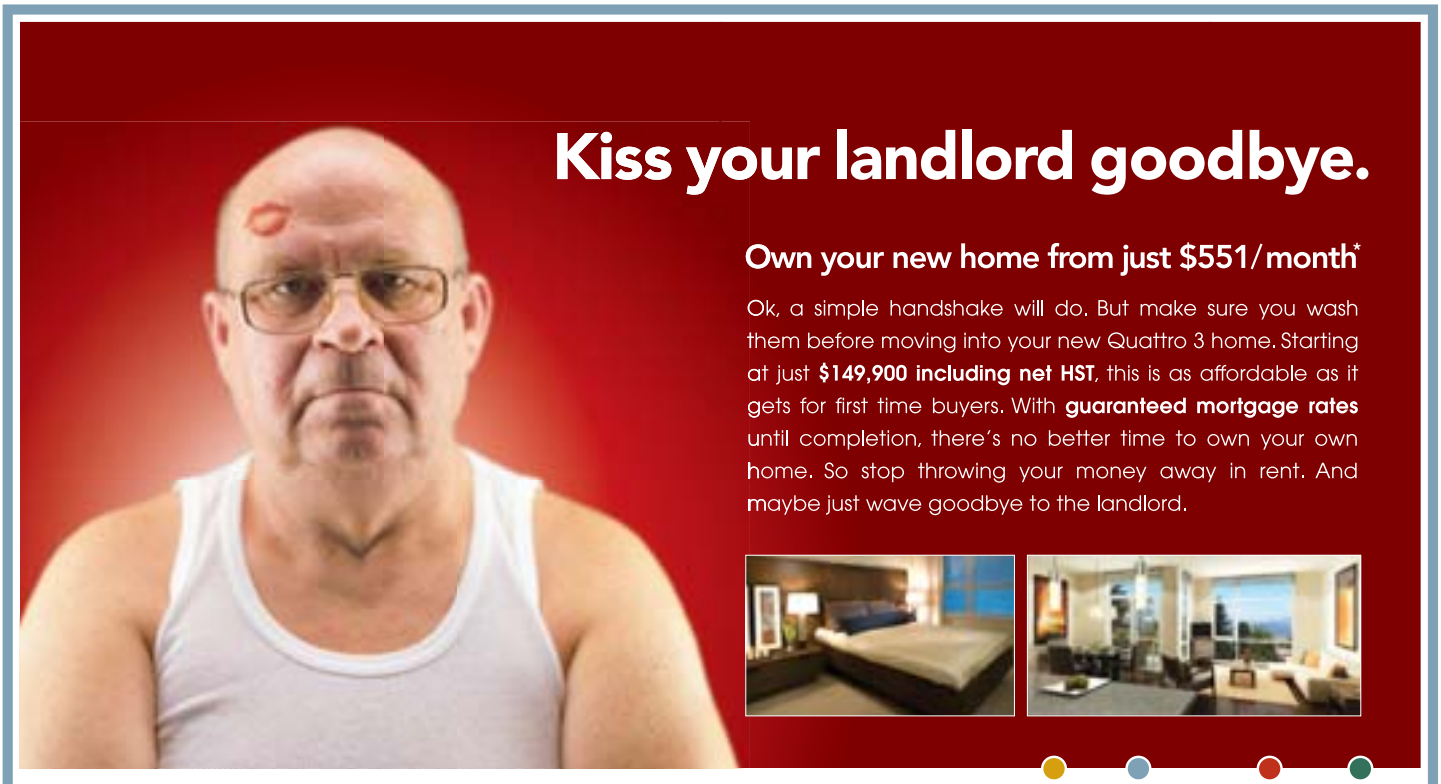
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Google found not so street smart

- Privacy commissioner says Google violated Canadians' privacy rights
- Collected personal info by mistake

Millions of Canadians search the web every day, but the country's privacy commissioner says their favourite search engine was doing too much research into them.

Jennifer Stoddart says Google broke Canadian privacy laws when it accidentally collected personal information from unsecured wireless networks while putting together its Street View mapping service. An investigation by Stoddart's office found emails, addresses, usernames and passwords. Even a list with names of people with certain medical conditions was collected. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Privacy concerns

In April, privacy commissioner Jennifer Stoddart led a group of 10 privacy regulators who wrote to Google concerned about its approach to privacy.

- **Street View** lets users get crystal-clear pictures of homes and sometimes faces and licence plates.
- **Stoddart** said Google needed clearer controls around new product launches and enhanced privacy training.
- **Spanish data regulators** said they are filing a lawsuit against Google for the Wi-Fi mapping incident.

China. Interest rates

▶ A man poses for photos in front of Tiananmen Gate in Beijing yesterday. Beijing is trying to cool inflation and guide rapid growth to a more sustainable level.

NG HAN GUAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beijing bombshell

China shook global markets yesterday with its unexpected increase of interest rates, but the surprise was compounded by the size of the move. The increase was 25 basis points, the first time in modern history that Beijing adjusted deposit and lending levels by a number that was not a multiple of nine.

Canadian house prices come down

Increases in Canadian home prices are moderating as the market cools from overheated levels of earlier this year, says one of the country's largest real estate companies.

A Royal LePage survey published yesterday said housing prices weakened in the third quarter in most major markets, coming off unseasonably strong sales in the first half of the year when low interest rates helped stimulate a rush to market. THE CANADIAN PRESS

HANDOUT

"The year is unfolding much as we predicted, with the unusually active first half of 2010 giving way to slower markets."

PHIL SOPER, ROYAL LEPAGE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Apple shares fall

$20.3B

Apple's revenue jumped 67 per cent to $20.3 billion, from $12.2 billion last year.

Wall Street's bar was so high for Apple Inc. that the fact that it sold more iPads than Macs in the latest quarter wasn't enough to impress investors.

Shares fell nearly six per cent after the release of results Monday, even though Apple reported record net income and revenue as iPhone sales nearly doubled from a year ago.

Apple's gross margin — a measure of its profitability — was better than its own guidance, but Wall Street was expecting even better. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Billionaire gets closer to buying Lions Gate

Lions Gate not allowed 'poison pill' to stop Carl Icahn takeover He now owns 37.9 per cent of the corporation

A B.C. regulator has granted an application by billionaire activist investor Carl Icahn to cease trade a so-called poison pill adopted by his takeover target, Lions Gate Entertainment Corp.

The British Columbia Securities Commission did not immediately release the reasons for its decision Monday.

The boutique film studio adopted the shareholder rights plan in early July to guard against unwanted takeovers like the one Icahn has been pushing for several months.

Icahn already convinced the B.C. regulator to overturn an attempt by Lions Gate to enact a poison pill provision in the spring. The new plan was meant specifically to discourage a "creeping bid," under which a shareholder acquires a controlling stake little by little through markets, rather than through a general offer.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

▶ Carl Icahn

Poison pills allow a company to flood the market with shares, making an acquisition much more expensive than it would be otherwise.

In recent months, Icahn has gradually built his position in Lions Gate from around 19 per cent to 37.9 per cent currently.

Icahn has been trying to buy Lions Gate for more than a year but has been rebuffed by the studio. His tender offer for the company, worth $7.50 per share, expires Oct. 22.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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THERE REALLY SHOULD BE AN APP FOR THAT

Just sayin'

PAUL SULLIVAN

It's now an article of faith — after numerous studies prove it to be so — that texting, talking and even listening on your cellphone while driving is even more dangerous than driving while drunk.

That, of course, doesn't prevent people from texting, talking or listening while driving, even when it's illegal: OMG! I'm gonna crash. It's enough to make you get out and walk. But lately it occurs to me that is no solution. Walking has become just as dangerous as driving as the streets are populated by the same idiots — distracted drivers who somehow manage to park their cars without incident.

Everywhere you go, and I mean everywhere, the Text Menace is right in front of you, brow furrowed, thumbs going a mile a minute, jacked into headphones, completely oblivious to what's going on around them — or in front of them.

"Everywhere you go, and I mean everywhere, the Text Menace is right in front of you ..."

How many times today were you forced to swerve to avoid some vision in Ugg boots who couldn't wait to tell her BFF that she's just across the street, so Wait for Me!

And if you think that's bad, did you know you can get an iPhone app called Type and Walk which makes it possible for you to, well, type and walk at the same time without running into anything or anyone. That means you never have to look up. Or say you're sorry. Or thank-you. Or hello, or any of that other, like, outmoded human interaction stuff.

I guess Type and Walk is a good thing, especially if you have a tendency to walk off the curb into an oncoming bus, but would it not be simple just to turn your phone off for the three minutes it takes to get from here to there?

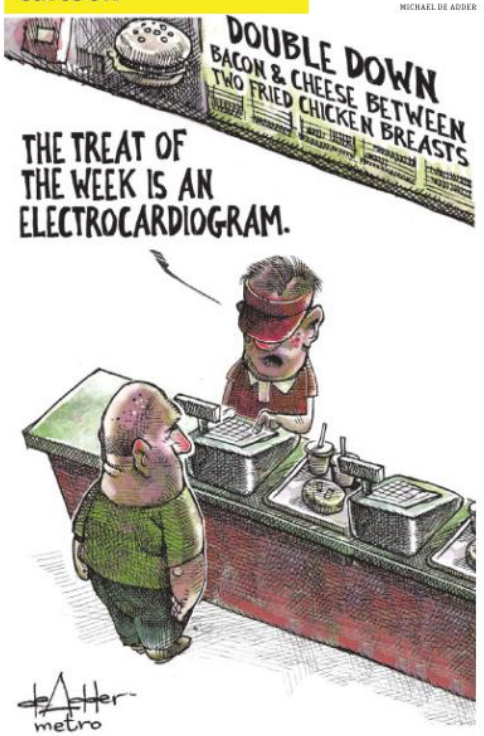
I think it's time to consider a ban on cellphones altogether. In case you haven't noticed, "smart" phone zombies are everywhere, holding the line up at Tim Hortons as they talk to their friends while trying to select 30 different Timbits. Or they're in the elevator telling people they're in the elevator, as in: "I'm in the elevator." Or in a stall in a public washroom.

Some people don't think it's a good idea to ban cellphones, even if you're heading down the freeway 40 kilometres over the limit. Rush Limbaugh, for example, thinks the whole idea is a commie plot: "Liberalism, socialism, communism is responsible for more deaths than cellphones could ever hope to be." But consider the source. I would bet listening to Rush Limbaugh lose his mind in public is more dangerous than texting and drinking combined. LOL.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying

Cartoon

MICHAEL DE ADDER



BlackBerry aiming low?

Worth mentioning

MONTREAL. While Apple CEO Steve Jobs brags that iPhone smartphone sales have pulled ahead of RIM's BlackBerrys, analysts say Research In Motion is aiming at a different, more international marketplace.

"It could have a viable future as a growth company that really focuses on affordable smartphones, affordable messaging devices," MKM Partners analyst Tero Kuittinen said from New York.

"The fate of Research In Motion really hinges on how well they now do in Asia, Latin America and the Middle East."

Apple said Monday that iPhones outsold BlackBerrys by two million units in the quarter, but Kuittinen said that's like comparing a BMW luxury vehicle with a mid-market Honda.

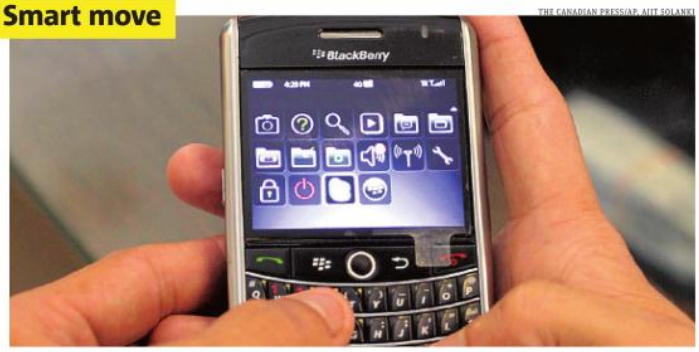
"Apple is targeting very sophisticated consumers who demand cutting-edge technology and are really interested in expensive data plans," he said.

BMO Capital Markets analyst Tim Long also said RIM is best positioned to benefit from smartphone growth in emerging markets over the next few years. He noted that most emerging markets don't offer subsidies for smartphones buyers and it would cost consumers in those markets more money to operate an iPhone than a lower-end, basic BlackBerry.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Smart move

THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP, AJIT SOLANKI



How early is too early for a toque?

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Metro Minute at Drive unplugged

You don't have to wait until Earth Hour to go dining in the dark.

Every Wednesday evening during October — which is Power Smart Month — Commercial Drive restaurants and cafés are turning down the lights so guests can dine by candlelight, accompanied by acoustic music.

Restaurants include The Reef, The Libra Room and Falconetti's.

All venues participating in Commercial Drive Unplugged will have a ballot box to allow guests to enter to win a Commercial Drive Power Smart prize package, including an acoustic guitar and gift certificates from The Drive.

For information and a list of participating businesses visit thedrive.ca.

KRISTEN THOMPSON

KRISTEN THOMPSON/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

▶ It's not just romantic to have dinner by candlelight, it's also green.

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Visit www.clubmetro.com/unicef and show your support for the work UNICEF does in more than 150 countries and territories around the world, including Indonesia. Simply enter the "Make October Count for Kids" contest for your chance to win a **$10,000 travel voucher*** from Intrepid Travel.

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Halloween Safety Tips

Here's how parents can help their youngest ghouls and ghosts stay safe this Halloween:

1. Apply reflective tape to Halloween costumes.
2. Use face paint rather than masks that could cover the eyes.
3. Remind your kids to look both ways before crossing the street.
4. Accompany young children. Older trick or treaters should travel in small groups on a pre-planned route.
5. Inspect all treats before children sample their goodies.

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national unicef day oct.31

2 scene

Gemini Awards

It'll be a Glee-ful celebration at the Gemini Awards next month.

Cory Monteith, who stars in the hit TV series, has been announced as host of the Geminis, which celebrate the best in Canadian television. The show takes place in Toronto on Nov. 13.

The cop show Flashpoint is among the main contenders at the event, with 15 nominations.

Monteith, who plays Finn Hudson on Glee, was born in Calgary and raised in Vancouver.

Tough-talking Gone Baby Gone actress Jill Quigg charged in Mass. break-in.

SUBMITTED

▶ Religious newspaper claims The Simpsons is one of the few TV programs for children in which the Christian faith and the question of God are recurring themes.

Vatican declares Homer a Catholic

The Simpsons' producer says the television program clearly shows Homer is not Catholic
It's the latest example of the Vatican's efforts to be more relevant to younger generations

The Vatican newspaper has declared that Homer Simpson is part of the Pope's flock — a claim that leaves The Simpsons TV producer baffled.

"Few people know it and he does everything to hide it but it is true: Homer J. Simpson is Catholic," L'Osservatore Romano wrote in its weekend edition.

Last December, the newspaper praised the show on its 20th anniversary for its philosophical leanings and irreverent take on religion.

The weekend story was the latest example of the Vatican paper's efforts to be more relevant in the past few years, and follows stories lauding Harry Potter and praising the Beatles.

The paper quoted an analysis by a Jesuit priest, the Rev. Francesco Occhetta, discussing Homer and Bart's conversion in a 2005 episode after meeting with a sympathetic priest, Father Sean.

"My first reaction is shock and awe, and I guess it makes up for me not going to church for 20 years."
AL JEAN, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Osservatore says the analysis shows that behind the TV program's jokes are themes "linked to the sense and quality of life."

"The Simpsons' remain among the few programs for children in which the Christian faith, religion and the question of God are recurring themes," it said. "The family recites prayers together before meals and, in its own way, believes in heaven."

While noting that The Simpsons often takes jabs at religious figures, it said parents should not be afraid to let their children watch "the adventures of the little guys in yellow."

But the show's producer told Entertainment Weekly the Vatican may have gone a step too far in its analysis of the satire, noting that Homer and Bart only consider converting in the 2005 episode.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TV legend returns to join the Working Class

Ed Asner to play crotchety neighbour in first scripted CMT sitcom

SUBMITTED

Actor Ed Asner

Television veteran Ed Asner is coming back to series TV with the first scripted sitcom for CMT.

On the new show, Working Class, Asner will co-star as the crusty but lovable neighbour to the blue-collar single mom played by series star Melissa Peterman.

The network announced Monday that the 12-episode multi-camera comedy will premiere in January on CMT.

Asner, who turns 81 next month, is beloved for his signature role as cranky journalist Lou Grant. His return to TV follows recent successes for two fellow castmates from the legendary Mary Tyler Moore Show: Betty White on TV Land's Hot in Cleveland and Cloris Leachman on Fox's Raising Hope.

Peterman has appeared on the sitcom Reba and hosts CMT's The Singing Bee. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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MICHAEL CAULFIELD/GETTY IMAGES

Comedian Jimmy Kimmel will be one of a handful of celebrities answering phone pledges during the Night of Too Many Stars broadcast

When Too Many is just the right amount

Benefit for autism backed by comedian Jon Stewart among others

Comedy Central hopes it's got the winning number for Night of Too Many Stars: An Overbooked Concert for Autism Education.

The network's third such biennial benefit originates from two coasts and will be prerecorded as well as live.

Airing Thursday at 9 p.m. EDT, the broadcast will consist of a gala concert taped earlier this month at New York's Beacon Theatre, along with live cut-ins from Los Angeles, where a star-studded phone bank will receive viewers' contributions during the show.

Rob Corddry, Bryan Cranston, Jimmy Kimmel, Jim Parsons, Sofia Vergara and Rainn Wilson are among the celebrities booked to take calls in Los Angeles from donors. Jon Stewart will be hosting.

Meanwhile, the New York shindig will boast names such as Steve Carell, Stephen Colbert, Tina Fey, Sarah Silverman, Jimmy Fallon, Tracy Morgan, Joel McHale, Jim Gaffigan, John Oliver, Ricky Gervais, Lewis Black, Chris Rock and Triumph the Insult Comic Dog. Surely way too many!

Hosting this portion, too, of the overbooked affair: Who else but Jon Stewart?

Night of Too Many Stars comes packed with laughs, of course. But its underlying purpose is no joke, as Stewart wastes no time reminding everyone.

After greeting the audience with a bedbug joke, he turns serious, stating that one of every 110 kids is diagnosed as autistic.

"Tonight isn't about curing autism or fighting it," he says. "Tonight is about helping people that live with it now."

The event arose from the difficulty Robert Smigel had in finding his son Daniel, who has autism, the right educational resources. He and Daniel's mother started their own school a few years ago.

Smigel, perhaps best known for his wisecracking canine hand puppet, Triumph, is held in great affection among the comic mafia. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Two more axed from Battle of The Blades

Violetta Afanasieve and P.J. Stock have been eliminated from the Battle of the Blades.

Katia Gordeeva and Valeri Bure were in the bottom two but will remain for another week.

The winning pair earns $100,000 for the charity of their choice.

Battle of the Blades airs live performance shows Sundays and live results shows Mondays on CBC-TV.

The six pairs returning to compete next Sunday are: Shae-Lynn Bourne and Patrice Brisebois, Isabelle Brasseur and Todd Warriner, Gordeeva and Bure, Kyoko Ina and Kelly Chase, Jamie Sale and Theo Fleury THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBC gives green light to three shows

NBC is giving three freshmen series, including The Event, a full-season pickup.

Besides the much-hyped thriller The Event, the network gave a vote of confidence Monday to Law & Order: Los Angeles and the sitcom Outsourced.

None of the series has posted stellar ratings in a season in which new shows have struggled to attract viewers.

But NBC noted that The Event and the Los Angeles-set Law & Order have improved ratings in their time slots, while Outsourced is doing well with advertiser-favoured young adult viewers. The network finished in the fourth spot last season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TV picks

Save the very last Dance

REALITY It's the final performance episode on So You Think You Can Dance Canada before Sunday's season finale. Four hopefuls are vying for the coveted title. (CTV)
CANADIAN PRESS

Howie helps salute stars

AWARDS Howie Mandel hosts the Canada's Walk of Fame special in Toronto tonight, honouring some of Canada's biggest and brightest. This year's inductees include singer-songwriter Nelly Furtado, actor Eric McCormack, David Clayton-Thomas and acclaimed author Farley Mowat (Global)
CANADIAN PRESS

A Gibson cameo for Hangover 2

Mel Gibson has a cameo in The Hangover 2 as a tattoo artist.

Gibson's role, which was first reported by the New York Post, was confirmed Tuesday by a person close to the production, who requested anonymity because he wasn't authorized to comment publicly on the matter. The film, a sequel to the 2009 hit comedy The Hangover, is beginning production, with a release scheduled for May 2011.

Warner Bros., which is distributing the film, declined to comment.

Gibson might be hoping some comedy improves his tarnished reputation: A memorable appearance in the first Hangover film helped rehabilitate Mike Tyson's image.

Authorities are investigating claims by Gibson's ex-girlfriend Oksana Grigorieva that the 54-year-old actor-director physically abused her. Audio purportedly of Gibson making a series of racist and misogynistic rants was leaked earlier this year.

Though shooting on the film was completed in 2009, no release date has been announced. The Hangover 2 follows the characters on a trip to Southeast Asia for a wedding. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SUBMITTED

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A toast to famous, fearless femmes

Elle magazine celebrates female achievement in film **"Women run Hollywood," says actor Harrison Ford**

They are Oscar winners and nominees, actors, directors and producers. And the honourees of Elle magazine's 17th annual Women in Hollywood celebration say they have women to thank for it.

Jodie Foster, Diane Keaton, Gwyneth Paltrow, Kate Hudson, Sofia Coppola, Hilary Swank, Kerry Washington, Diane Kruger and newcomer Jessica Chastain, who were recognized Monday night for their achievements in film, said they were inspired by other actresses and female filmmakers.

Foster, who knew at age 6 she wanted to be a director, looked to European filmmakers Lina Wertmuller and Margarethe von Trotta.

"I thought, well, if they could do it, an American can do it, too,'' she said.

MATT SAYLES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶Honouree director Sofia Coppola, left, actor Stephen Dorff, center, and Elle Fanning at ELLE magazine's 17th Annual Women in Hollywood Tribute

Meanwhile, Oscar-winning director Kathryn Bigelow called Foster "a national treasure," and Alyson Hannigan said Foster inspired her to become an actress.

"I've always loved her," Hannigan said, "So if I get to meet her tonight, like, I might pass out."

Kruger, Swank and actress Viola Davis all named Meryl Streep as one of their acting heroes. For Washington, it's Annette Bening. For Coppola, it's Anjelica Huston. Hudson and Paltrow each said their actress moms were inspirations.

With all the love in the room, director-producer Adam Shankman, who hosted the event at the Four Seasons Hotel, concluded that "being a woman in Hollywood totally rocks."

Harrison Ford speculated that the event "came to be back in the days when they said, 'There were no good parts for women' and 'Women aren't highly regarded.'''

Now, he said, "Women run Hollywood. Absolutely run Hollywood. And I'm glad."

Though significant gains have been made, honourees and presenters said they're still fighting for parity.

"There needs to be more focus on great stories, great roles for women that are just as powerful as they are with men, filled with duality, where we're all not always nice and sexless after 40 and humourless after 40," Davis said. "I think there are some amazing women out there"

Foster said it might seem quaint to celebrate women "when they really are half of what's going on in the film business."

Keaton said it's up to women to work together to tell their stories.

"We're bound together by the inexplicable wonder by being what?'' she said. "Just women."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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'If she can do it, so can I': Levi to The View

Levi Johnston says there are really no qualifications to hold the job that Sarah Palin once held, which is that of mayor of Wasilla, Alaska.

Johnston, the father of Palin's grandson, was grilled on The View Monday about his mayoral ambitions.

In August, Johnston's manager confirmed Johnston's plans to run for the office as part of a reality TV show and insisted he was serious about the move.

Johnston said the only real qualification is to live in the city limits for a year before the election.

He believes he's as qualified as any other candidate, saying he believes it's important to listen to the people and their concerns.

Johnston said he has no platform, which drew groans from the roundtable. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SUBMITTED

New record in works

Avett Brothers vow to stay on their toes as album takes shape

GETTY IMAGES

The Avett Brothers

The Avett Brothers' breakthrough album, I and Love and You, came out on Sept. 29, 2009, exactly one year before our interview with singer and multi-instrumentalist Scott Avett.

So what's the band doing to celebrate the anniversary?

"I guess," says Avett, upon quick reflection, "making another record, right?"

The band is not quite ready for the studio though. They just released an in-concert collection called "Live, Volume 3" last week, which clearly demonstrates how much growth can happen on the stage for this band.

The songs from their 2009 album have matured especially well thanks to their year on the road. And the band — which also includes Scott's brother Seth on vocals, guitar and piano as well as bassist and singer Bob Crawford — agrees that they like to know how a song works in the live setting before they commit it to disc.

"We've got a ton of songs that we'd love to record, but I think there's a lot to be said for being content and figuring out how to sit back and let those songs become what they will and develop naturally," he says.

"They start to breathe and nuances happen. Great accidents happen, and the songs really dictate what they'll become. You've just got to play them."

I and Love and You was produced by Rick Rubin and not entirely road-tested when they went into record with him. Avett says that this really worked for the album, but they want to do the next one differently.

"I and Love and You was a big learning experience and a big change for us in the way we recorded it. We gave up some control intentionally, and we were proud to do so," he says..

"We wanted to step out of our comfort zone, and we did. And we're kind of coming back to it, to take chances on stage — and bringing things to the stage that you don't really know is how you get to develop them." METRO

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GETTY IMAGES

Ryan Bingham

Singer not Weary Kind

Bingham claims new album inspired by cars, not Crazy Heart character

Ryan Bingham's latest album, Junky Star, seems inspired by Jeff Bridges' Crazy Heart character Bad Blake, an alcoholic former country music superstar on his way down and out.

Not so, says Bingham, the 29-year-old singer-songwriter responsible for the film's Golden Globe and Oscar-winning song, The Weary Kind.

"I was thinking of when you're looking through a junkyard and among all the trashed cars you find a really special cool car. But I like to leave it vague and open to interpretation," he explains.

Junky Star does have a definable link to Crazy Heart, though.

The film's soundtrack producer, the 10-time Grammy-winning T-Bone Burnett, who co-wrote The Weary Kind, helmed this set of bristling barroom rock and aching raw ballads.

Even so, it was business as usual for Bingham and his band, Dead Horses.

"He didn't tell us to do anything. He just got us all in the studio with all these amazing guitars and cool old amps and we played around, trying different guitar sounds."

"We tracked the whole record in three days. I don't want to say it was easy, but it was that smooth."

Like Bad Blake, Ryan Bingham and the Dead Horses' music is more outlaw country than mainstream Nashville pop.

The more revved-up songs of Junky Star sit easily with the likes of the rockabilly-based tunes of early Kings of Leon, before the stylists came on board and cut into their hick charm.

."I could see that," agrees Bingham, sounding more polite than convinced.

Then there's his raspy voice, which is as ragged and emphatic as Tom Waits. "I'd be nothing but honored to be mentioned alongside Tom Waits," he says humbly. "He's amazing." METRO

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Lesson learned

Whatever you Like singer tells radio station he's through with crime as judge orders him off to prison

SUBMITTED

Rapper T.I.

T.I. has learned his final lesson after a federal judge ordered him back to prison for 11 months.

A federal judge in Atlanta ruled last week that the Grammy-winning rap artist, whose real name is Clifford Harris Jr., must return to prison for violating the terms of his supervised release on federal weapons charges. He was arrested in California last month on suspicion of drug possession.

T.I. told radio station V103-FM in Atlanta on Monday that he's learned by trial and error after each arrest and has learned his final lesson.

T.I. gave the interview to V103 alongside a 24-year-old man who had recently threatened to kill himself by leaping from a downtown building.

Police said the man agreed to come down if he could meet with T.I.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

West finds his creative sweet spot in new film

- Producer-turned-rapper hints at subject of suicide in recent song, Power
- That song's remix is among 10 tunes West has released for free through website
- He also plans on recording a new album with Jay-Z

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▶ Hip-hop artist Kanye West arrives for a screening of Runaway, a short film he directed that will accompany his forthcoming album, My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy, on Monday in Los Angeles.

Kanye West told an audience at a screening of his film, Runaway, that he thought about killing himself, but now feels a responsibility to make a meaningful contribution to pop culture and art.

Describing himself as a pop icon and "soldier for culture," West told the crowd "there were times that I contemplated suicide." However, he said, "I will not give up on life again."

West, who didn't say when he had considered suicide, is credited as director of the abstract 35-minute film, which features portions of nine new West songs, boldly colourful visuals and off-kilter camera angles.

The mostly dialogue-free piece, set to premiere this weekend on MTV, VH1 and BET, will accompany West's upcoming album, My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy, which will be released Nov. 22.

After a prelude featuring narration from rapper Nicki Minaj, West's character, Griffin, is seen driving a black MTX Tatra supercar down a country road. Lying next to a hole in the pavement is a phoenix fallen to Earth, played by model Selita Ebanks in pink, grey and brown feathers.

Playing over those visuals are West's next single, All of the Lights, which he said features Elton John on piano and an all-star chorus including Alicia Keys, Rihanna, Fergie and John Legend.

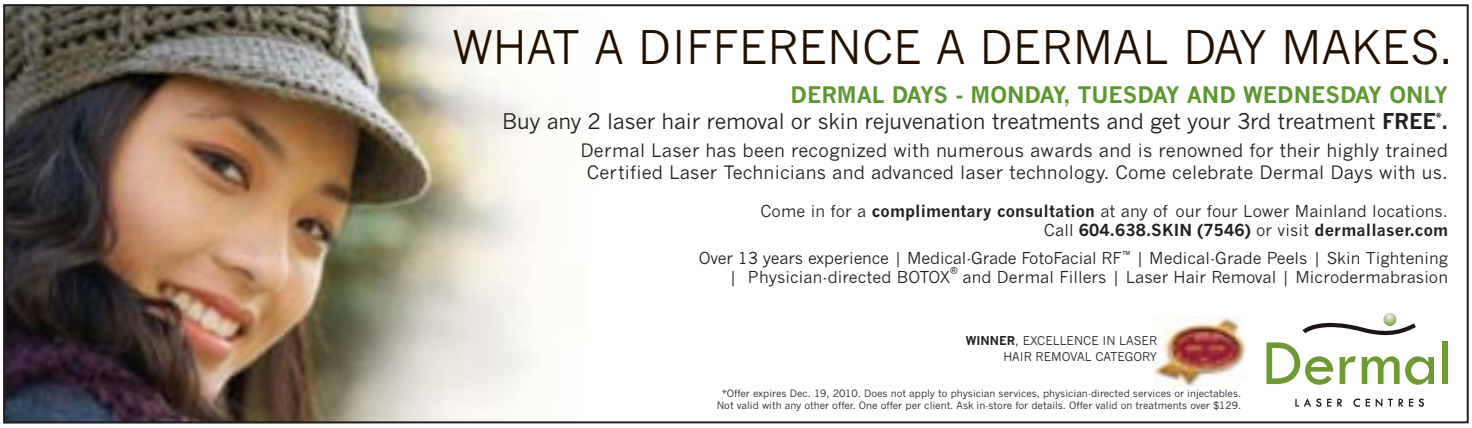
When the tune ended, there was applause from both the on-screen and live audience. In attendance were Morgan Spurlock, Ryan Phillippe, Pete Wentz and others in the entertainment industry.

The 33-year-old West told them that after a "long, hard year," he'd found his "creative sweet spot" by thinking like a five-year-old.

Besides his mother Donda West's death in 2007, West said he'd also lost three other parental figures in the last three years.

"Everything has been taken away from me," he said. "I'm so not ... scared."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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Bieber's mom feels shut out

Source says she's talking to a lawyer about Justin's autobiography

Pattie Mallette, mother of teen sensation Justin Bieber, is worried she's being cut out of her sons successful career, according to Radar Online.

Her worries started when she found out about Bieber's forthcoming autobiography.

"No one in Justin's camp told her or consulted her," a source says. "She found out about it by reading it in the press."

While devoted to her son, Mallette is reportedly mulling her options. "She's in a tough position," the source says. "She feels that she's being cut out of her son's business life by the people around him. She doesn't know what to do. It was a big step for her to finally go out and look for a lawyer for herself."

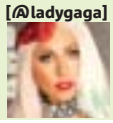
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

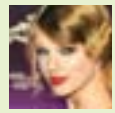
▶ Justin Bieber

Celebrity tweets

JIM CARREY [@JIMCARREY] Friday night in NYC. A giant aching mass of impulse and apatite speeding toward the dawn again! You're a wild one!

LADY GAGA [@ladygaga] Having a Perfect Manhattan, for my perfect guy. Love you Giuseppe am





Taylor Swift [@taylorswift13] At dinner with my family, engaged in a heated argument — debating our theories on who 'You're So Vain' is about.

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Talking points

Aguilera finds support

BLAME. Christina Aguilera reportedly blames husband Jordan Bratman for the collapse of their marriage, according to Page Six.

"She feels that he held her back when she wanted to focus more on her career," a source says. Meanwhile, Aguilera has reportedly been turning to Lindsay Lohan's ex-girlfriend, Samantha Ronson, for emotional support, though sources deny rumours the two are hooking up.

"They've known each other forever and they're good friends," a source says. "Samantha was in Mexico with Christina for Nicole [Richie]'s bachelorette party."

METRO

Gaga ready to settle down?

COMMITMENT. Things are getting serious enough between Lady Gaga and boyfriend Luc Carl that the pair reportedly took part in a "spiritual commitment ceremony," according to Grazia magazine. "It was their first step towards marriage," a source says. "They both dressed up and said beautiful handwritten vows. They then exchanged rings in a spiritual service and drank shots before sitting down to a lovely private dinner at a tiny restaurant." And the ceremony was just the beginning, according to the source: "They wanted to show that they are committed to each other and want to spend the rest of their lives together. They are still planning to marry, but that will come later when she has the time to plan a big Italian-style wedding."

METRO

Elton was asked to be Idol judge

OFFER. Elton John says he turned down an offer to be a new judge on American Idol.

"I don't want to be on television. It's become boring, arse-paralyzingly brain crippling," he tells Radio Times magazine.

He also questions how much reality shows prepare singers for a real career.

"TV vaults you to superstardom and then you have to back it up, which is hard," he says.

"Susan Boyle was an endearing phenomenon, but I fear she might not understand the rigors of show business."

METRO

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GETTY IMAGES

▶ Comedian, actor and author Judah Friedlander

Time travel is the secret

Judah Friedlander, who plays a staff writer on NBC's 30 Rock, knew he had a gift, but it wasn't for entertaining — it was for martial arts.

The stand-up comedian and actor decided to share his hard-fighting acumen with his new book, How to Beat Up Anybody.

We talked with the master about his work. Here's a tip: don't take anything in this article as truth.

How did you become a world champion of karate?

Well, I'm not a world champion, I am the world champion. I won it.

It's the most coveted trophy in all of sports and martial arts. I first won it back in the '80s but I'm still undefeated.

And with this book, this is the first time I'm showing the general public my techniques so that everyone can stay safe.

Does your expertise come from your innate abilities or do you attribute it to years of hard training?

That's an excellent question. It's a mix. I have a natural gift, and I've worked on it.

I first learned martial arts when I was 13. I was in federal prison in China for a crime I didn't commit and I learned from the inmates.

You have a section on how a woman can defend herself and even dress the part to illustrate it. How did it feel to be in a woman's shoes?

Well, I've been there before. Everything in this book is real. There's not one staged photograph and to prepare for this book, in 1983, I went back in time to 1975, got a sex change and lived as a woman for two years in Istanbul. I was abused — this was before I was the world champion. I did that so I can learn because I want to give back. I want to learn what it's like for a woman to defend herself, so I actually did.

METRO

Acting Up

Judah Friedlander on keeping karate skills sharp while working for 30 Rock.

▶ "When I'm taking a break from beating people up and winning trophies, I'll head over to 30 Rock. I'm actually only there for security purposes. And you know, every once in a while, they'll give me some lines. It's just something to mix the day up. When I'm taking a break from beating people up and winning trophies, I'll head over to "30 Rock," do a few lines, bring some sexiness to the show.."

3 life

SeaWorld

A new roller-coaster and a tropical fish venue are coming to two Florida theme parks owned by SeaWorld Parks. Park officials announced last week that the roller coaster Cheetah Hunt is coming to Bush Gardens Tampa, while Grand Reef will open at Discovery Cove in Orlando. The roller coaster will launch riders from zero to 96 kilometres per hour at the start of the 1,350-metre track and include a 39-metre drop. A new cheetah habitat will be built alongside the roller-coaster.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fans mourn closing of Liberace Museum as another sign of fading showmanship

ISTOCK

Vacation like a Celebrity

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Follow these celebrity vacationers to their fave hot spots—all places that'll meet your needs for surf, sand and warm temperatures

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▶ The Travolta-Prestons

THE BAHAMAS

For twosomes who are like ships that pass in the night because of jam-packed schedules and are desperately in need of pampering time together.

Poster couple
John Travolta and wife Kelly Preston make time for intimate getaways at places like the ultraposh resort, Atlantis, in the Bahamas. With more than 2,000 rooms, the resort might not be intimate but even these stars can get lost in the crowd.

▶ The Pitt-Jolies

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

For twosomes who rank styrofoam, George W. Bush and SUVs high among the environmental evils of the world.

Poster couple
Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie like to keep it real in the DR. They stroll the streets and hang with the locals, before hiding away at an exclusive resort, like the Punta Cana Resort & Club.

The sugary-white beaches of the Dominican Republic are why most people head there, but its best-kept secret is its eco-friendly side.

Hike through unspoiled mangrove swamps and mountains with cascading waterfalls.

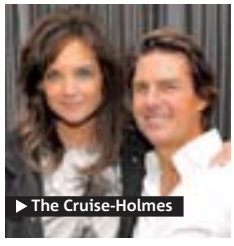
▶ The Beckhams

BARBADOS

For let's just do it twosomes who can't get the vacuum cleaner out of the front-hall closet because it's jammed with baseball gloves, golf clubs, yoga mats and last year's dart-tourney trophy.

Poster couple
David and Victoria Beckham flaunt their rippled bodies on the beach at celebrity-magnet Sandy Lane, the island's most exclusive, and expensive, resort.

When they're not frolicking in the waves, they lounge in their ocean-view suite, far away from the unwashed masses seeking autographs.



▶ The Cruise-Holmes

MEXICO'S MAYAN RIVIERA

For hipster couples who like to follow the crowd on the road to what's hot and happening.

Poster couple
Tom Cruise has always been one to be on top on the latest trend. He kicked off the global obsession with aliens with War of the Worlds and snagged himself a young wife (a popular Hollywood tradition) in the form of Katie Holmes.

He also knows a good thing: He booked a romantic getaway with his beloved at the Maroma Resort and Spa, a nearly $5,000-a-night sweet spot in the Mayan Riviera.

▶ The Smiths

GRENADA

For twosomes who love facing challenges and adversity head-on and want a trip to a place with strong conviction and spirit.

Poster couple
Will Smith and Jada Pinkett Smith, Heidi Klum and Seal. Both of these couples share things in common: It's the second time around for both, and these twosomes have vacationed on the spice island. Sure, they could've given up on finding love again and taken a vow of chastity, but they licked their wounds, found fresh amore and hooked-up for a sequel marriage.

Any truth to hotel ratings?

How to know what ratings really mean and which ones to trust **Don't get taken in by fake rating systems**

JESSICA LEWIS
LIFE @METRONEWS.CA

ISTOCK PHOTOS

▶ Canadians usually look for four star accommodations say travel experts.

When you put confidence into a nice vacation once a year, you want your money's worth in hotel or resort quality. So when you're spending all those hours toiling away on travel websites or talking with an agent, how much does the star rating mean in your decision?

Mahmood Tejpar, a manager at Marlin Travel in Calgary, rates hotels and resorts usually from two to five stars. The differences, he says, are in terms of amenities.

"The higher the star, the more facilities like spas, bistros, discotheques, more pools, more restaurants," he says.

Staff service, food quality and location can also be taken into consideration. But with each perk, that likely means the price will increase.

Tejpar says Canadians usually look for four star accommodations. To help clients, Marlin Travel gives ratings of budget, moderate, superior and luxury alongside stars.

Ratings are all over the map.

They can be awarded by agencies, critics, anonymous online reviews or the hotels themselves. Hotwire takes an average from other websites and customer feedback.

Expedia lets you filter your searches by amenities such as air conditioning and gyms.

Frommer's, a popular guide book series, makes up its own ratings, from zero to three stars in recommendations.

And competing guide Lonely Planet barely even acknowledges the grades, but suggests you look at the bigger picture.

"As a Lonely Planet author we regularly ignored them," says editor Robert Reid. "As they are so inconsistent country to country, we find they're not the most consistent way of conveying quality. Some [hotels] add an elevator for an extra star, for example, and charge more, but have far less comfortable rooms than a two-floor bed and breakfast walk-up."

If you're looking for some swanky hot spots in warmer regions this winter, Tejpar recommends well-branded hotel chains Bahia Principe, Barcelo and Occidental in Mexico and the Caribbean Islands. And if you want to go above and beyond, then there's the Waldorf Astoria resort in La Quinta, California.

"It has 41 pools and 53 hot spas," laughs Tejpar.

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FLICKR: WONDERLANE

▶ Forget swimming with the dolphins, swimming with sea lions is the new hit attraction.

Swimming with the lions a roar in Puerto Vallarta

Vallarta Adventures lets you get up close with huge sea lions These gentle giants are great with humans

THE TRAVELIN' CANADIAN

DARREN PARKMAN
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

Swimming with Dolphins has long been a favourite tourist attraction along Mexico's Pacific Coast, but how bout doing laps alongside big blubberly sea lions?

Just outside downtown Puerto Vallarta, you can literally get "nose to whiskers" with these super friendly giants.

For around 75 bucks Canadian, Vallarta Adventures offers a rare chance to get up close and personal with several well-trained lions.

Sure, I'll admit I was a bit intimidated, in fact downright worried, about splashing around in the same pool with a 1,500 pound hairy creature, but my new friend Cassandra the lion, soon put my mind at ease.

She swam right up, threw a welcoming flipper around my fragile neck, gave me a big hug, and planted a big wet, fishy kiss on me.

Okay, admittedly it was the most affection I'd had in awhile, but I really could have lived without that overpowering tuna breath.

That aside, the whole experience really was downright fascinating.

These mammals are darned intelligent, and love to frolick with humans in a fun, and thankfully, non-life-threatening way.

After swimming with, feeding and just hanging out with my new deep-sea friend, I was even ready for the grand finale.

Cassandra got a good head start and suddenly flew out of the water directly over my head, leaving me uncrushed, and a little sad it was all over.

It's a highly recommended once in a lifetime experience.

Hey, when are you going to get kissed by a 15 hundred pound monster named Cassandra again?

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A SPECIAL REPORT PRESENTED BY WESTJET

THE SAND SPARKLES IN PALM SPRINGS

You know Palm Springs, California, don't you? People have long been drawn to this desert spot, with its 350 days of sun per year, sheltered by mountains on every side. The Palm Springs Hotel, the city's first, was built in 1886. Since then, tourists have soaked up sunshine and the city's rich history in equal measure, some becoming part of it themselves. Now it's your turn.

PAST AND PRESENT

Abundant water, flora and fauna have made Palm Springs popular for centuries, particularly among the ancestors of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians. Traces of their rock art, house pits, reservoirs and trails can still be seen. Ranger-led tours make a perfect supplement to programs and exhibits offered by the Agua Caliente Cultural Museum, located downtown. The Aqua Caliente Band remains an active part of Palm Springs' business community; its holdings include the Spa Resort Casino and Indian Canyons Golf Resort, both popular with tourists.

FAME & FORTUNE

Culture comes in many forms. No modern history of Palm Springs would be complete (or nearly as much fun) without a look at some of the city's most dazzling residents. A former home of Marlene Dietrich, Loretta Young, Bob Hope, and Lucille Ball among many others, Palm Springs continues to draw luminaries like Leonardo DiCaprio, Halley Berry, and Gwen Stefani to its sun-drenched streets. A trip down Frank Sinatra Drive reminds you of the most famous Palm Springs resident of all.

ART & ARCHITECTURE

Performing artists aren't the only ones inspired by Palm Springs' natural beauty. For architects of the Desert Modernist school, this city was, and remains, a gathering place. The movement, emphasizing a mixture of natural and manufactured resources, indoor and outdoor space, has gifted Palm Springs with many elegant buildings, both sleek and informal. Guided tours are available year-round.

Photo: Palm Springs Desert Resorts CVA

NOW WHAT?

Yes, Palm Springs has an exciting past, but its future is even sunnier. Since 2007 (and continuing today), Palm Springs and its sister-cities in the desert are introducing new hotel properties, restaurants, golf courses and other amenities totaling more than two billion dollars' worth of investment. There's already more than 100 lodging properties awaiting you, your partner, your children, your parents, and your friends. Come see what's brought people here for hundreds of years, and what's bringing even more of them here today.

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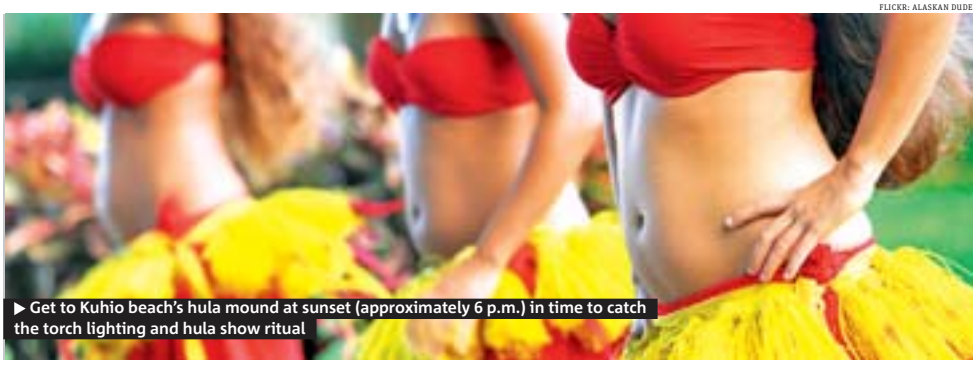

▶ Get to Kuhio beach's hula mound at sunset (approximately 6 p.m.) in time to catch the torch lighting and hula show ritual

Riding high in Hawaii's hotspot

Escape your fast paced life and unwind in Honolulu

PAUL BALDWIN
TRAVEL@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

In Hawaiian, the word Honolulu means "place of shelter," and this laid-back piece of paradise is indeed the perfect shelter from the fast-paced city lifestyle.

Surf and turf your way around Hawaii's coolest spot.

Hear Tropical Tunes

By day, Chinatown is a bustling area where you can wander around market stalls slurping on noodles or sampling dim sum. By night, it's a musical hub with great live music. Hank's Café Honolulu on the edge of Chinatown is a friendly hotspot popular with the locals.

hankscafehonolulu.com

Drink Mai Tai

Where else would you drink a Mai Tai but the Mai Tai Bar? The open-air venue hosts weekly music gigs and the happy hour deals will leave you smiling.

Traditional Mai Tai, Mango Mai Tai, Lychee Mai Tai or Icy Mai Tai…? Possibly the most difficult decision you'll make on your holiday.

maitaibar.com

See Lolani Palace

As the only remaining royal palace in the U.S., Iolani is a historical landmark. Find out more about the palace's history from when it was built by King Kalakaua in 1882 with a guided tour.

iolanipalace.org

Do Surf 'n' Turf

Water activities are the thing to do. Try your hand at boogie boarding, surfing, snorkeling, or challenge the waves by hopping into an outrigger canoe. Exploring surrounding islands on a kayak is great fun. Kailua Beach has some good waves but Waikiki is best for beginners.

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Fanciful food

It's not your typical cookbook. But Rene Redzepi is hardly your typical cook.

At age 32, he is the chef of the moment, ever since his Copenhagen restaurant, Noma, grabbed first place on Restaurant Magazine's list of the world's 50 best restaurants last spring.

Last month, Redzepi released a much-anticipated cookbook, Noma: Time and Place in Nordic Cuisine (Phaidon), with a book tour that took him around the globe.

The book features 200 photos, portraits of farmers, a diary from the early days, and recipes (though the average cook might be overwhelmed by the prospect of tracking down sea buckthorn or chasing snails). THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Simple dish, complex flavour

Sauteed chicken with Caramelized Onions

Preparation:

1. Cut onions into 6 wedges each. Sprinkle chicken with 1/4 tsp each salt and pepper.
2. In large skillet, add 2 tsp margarine and melt over medium-high heat. Sauté chicken until browned, about 3 minutes per side; transfer to plate.
3. Reduce heat to medium and melt remaining margarine in skillet. Sauté onions, 1 tbsp sugar, and remaining salt and pepper until onions turn golden brown and caramelize, 8 minutes. Stir frequently, breaking onions apart. Add broth and boil until evaporated, 2 minutes.
4. Stir in rosemary, thyme, and remaining sugar. Return chicken to skillet and sprinkle with vinegar. Cook, uncovered, until juices of chicken run clear, about 4 minutes. Serves 4

▶ Quick, easy and flavourful.

Ingredients :

- 750 g medium onions
- 4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves
- Salt to taste
- 1/2 tsp pepper
- 4 tsp margarine
- 2 tbsp superfine sugar
- 1/3 cup reduced-sodium chicken broth
- 1 tsp chopped fresh rosemary
- 1 tsp chopped fresh thyme
- 1 tbsp red wine vinegar

RECIPE COURTESY READERS DIGEST

Are you a parent of an inactive teen (aged 13-16)?

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We are looking to recruit parents of adolescents and their adolescent children (aged 13-16) to take part in a study that examines the role of parents in the promotion of adolescent physical activity. Both you and your child will complete questionnaires on 2 separate occasions (over a 6 week period) and you will also be invited to take part in a parenting program that aims to foster physical activity with your child.

If you would like to participate in this study then please contact Katie Morton by email: katiemorton84@gmail.com or by phone: 778-316-2619.

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▶ Franchises account for 40 per cent or all retail sales in Canada.

So you want to be an entrepreneur?

Opening a small business can be made easier by going franchise route

DENISE BARNARD
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

What do Comfort Keepers, Survivor Bootcamp, PostNet, Reliable Independent Living Services, Canadian Tire and Cora Breakfast and Lunch all have in common?

They're franchises, which account for 40 per cent of all retail sales in Canada and 10 per cent of the GDP, and employ more than one million Canadians, according to the Canadian Franchise Association (CFA). They attract a diverse group, from former franchise employees and corporate executives, to new immigrants, young entrepreneurs, and women, like Cora Tsouflidou — part of a growing demographic, according to a 2008 national survey commissioned by Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP.

Divorced with three teenage children to support, Tsouflidou opened her first restaurant in Quebec in 1980. She sold the popular eatery to work at a large establishment where she honed her skills.

In 1987, she debuted Cora Breakfast and Lunch; other locations soon followed. In order to grow her business, build her brand and "teach others her winning recipe," she chose franchising as her business strategy.

The first franchise opened in 1994; today there are more than 115 across the country with annual sales of more than $125 million. Tsouflidou credits her success to "initiative, perseverance, self-confidence and boundless energy."

What's The Next Big Thing?

Here are two growing sectors:

• Senior/Home Care Services: Thirteen percent of the Canadian population is aged 65 and older, and this population expected to double over the next 20 to 25 years, says Arif Abdulla, marketing and PR director for Nurse Next Door, Canada's fastest-growing home care franchise. This is a largely unregulated, competitive industry, says Abdulla, that demands a 24/7 commitment.

• Business Consultants: Includes everything from coaches to brokers that serve businesses and help them grow or operate better. Gemma Business Brokers president Maurice Muise says B2B franchises offer a professional services opportunity, life/work balance and growth market as boomers start retiring.

How do you find your own recipe for success?

"Making sure the franchise is right for you is essential for success and fulfillment," says Lorraine McLachlan, CFA president and CEO. Here are just a few questions she suggests you ask yourself. For more tips for potential franchisees (those buying franchises) and franchisors (those selling them), visit cfa.com.

• What motivates me? Potential revenue, challenging work, people, service, recognition, safety, security?

• How much structure, support, supervision or feedback do I need? New franchises tend to offer more flexibility with rules; more established ones tend to have more rigid systems and operating procedures.

• How much money do I have to invest? Licensing fees can run from $5,000 to $75,000-plus. Other expenses usually include royalties.

• How many employees do I want?

• Do I like being on the front lines and dealing with customers?

• What's my job experience? Look for a business that fits with your expertise. METRO

top franchises

The biggest players in Canada:

1. **Tim Hortons** — 2,902 locations; $50,000 franchise fee
2. **Subway Subs of Canada** — 2,457 locations; $15,000 US franchise fee; 2 weeks training
3. **MTY Group** (23 different brands, including Country Style, Cultures, TCBY, Thai Express and Yogen Früz) — 1,538 locations; $20,000. $40,000 franchise fee

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ISTOCK

▶ Smaller classes are popular with parents and teachers, however, they are not always affordable.

Size up the classroom

Parents should review teaching and learning practices

Smaller classes are popular with parents and teachers; however, because reducing class size is a very expensive undertaking, running into hundreds of millions of dollars each year in a large province, it is important to compare this strategy with other alternatives for improving student outcomes.

Many studies have been done on the impact of class size on teaching practices and on student outcomes. Although this research inevitably contains some conflicting findings, there is a significant agreement on some major points:

- Smaller classes in primary grades have been linked with somewhat better student outcomes, but the evidence is much weaker above the primary level.
- Smaller classes may have the greatest positive impact on students with the greatest educational needs.
- Academic gains for students from smaller classes depend on changes in teaching practices, but smaller classes alone do not necessarily lead to changed teaching. Teachers need ongoing support to implement new approaches for smaller classes.
- Fewer children mean more space for classroom activities and may reduce behavioural management issues.
- Changing class size across a whole system is challenging. Teachers need to change what they do, more teachers are needed, more split grade classes may result (though there is no evidence that split grades are harmful to students) and more classrooms are needed.

Evidence to date suggests that smaller classes across an entire system are probably not the most cost-effective way to improve student outcomes when compared with, for example, investing the same money in improving teaching skills. However, the fact that both teachers and parents support smaller classes provides another kind of value.

For parents, it is important to know the size of classes in your school but, even more, to understand the teaching and learning practices being used.

NEWS CANADA

more details

More information on class sizes reduction can be found at cea-ace.ca.

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Luongo, Canucks crushed by Wild

- Struggling Vancouver netminder surrenders 6 goals before being pulled
- Canucks D-man Rypien pushes fan

WILD	CANUCKS
6	2

Marek Zidlicky had a goal and two assists, and the Minnesota Wild scored three times on the power play to beat the Vancouver Canucks 6-2 last night.

Guillaume Latendresse, Cal Clutterbuck, John Madden, Andrew Brunette and Matt Cullen also scored for the Wild, who entered the game with the league's best power play at 38.1 per cent, and was 3-for-3 with the man advantage.

Daniel Sedin scored twice for Vancouver, which could see centre Rick Rypien facing disciplinary action after pushing a fan.

Roberto Luongo let in all six goals on the 18 shots he faced through two periods. Backup Cory Schneider came in for the final period and stopped six shots.

Luongo, who has allowed 14 goals in his past three starts this season, is 3-9-2 in Minnesota, his worst loss total in a visiting arena.

Niklas Backstrom made 25 saves for the Wild.

Rypien and Minnesota's Brad Staubitz, who fought in the opening period, were about to square off in the second period before being separated by the linesmen in front of the Wild bench.

As Rypien, who was assessed a double minor for roughing and a 10-minute misconduct, was pulled by linesman Don Henderson toward the Vancouver bench, he appeared to push the official.

On his way down the tunnel to the dressing room, Rypien pushed a Wild fan who was applauding at the railing. Rypien was quickly pulled away by teammate Manny Malhotra. The fan was removed from the area. Rypien was in the penalty box to start the third period, but did not get any ice time.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PAUL BATTAGLIA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Canucks winger Raffi Torres is checked by Wild defenceman Justin Falk yesterday.

Opinion

RORY BOYLEN
THE HOCKEY NEWS

THIRD LINE VITAL TO CUP HOPES

With a Hart Trophy winner, his identical twin, a Selke finalist and a perennial Vezina candidate already in the lineup, the Vancouver Canucks' main goal in the off-season was to bulk up a third line that on many nights was outworked and overmatched in 2009-10 — especially when they met the post-season Chicago Blackhawks.

Sure there was buzz around creating a new defence with Keith Ballard being brought in for some spare youth parts, Dan Hamhuis coming in from free agency and Kevin Bieksa a hot rumour mill topic throughout the summer, but it was the third forward unit that needed to be upgraded most. On most nights having Kyle Wellwood as the third pivot wasn't good enough against bigger, stronger and much more aggressive grind lines.

The Canucks are rich on the wings, so last year we saw a number of wingers take to the third line. From Mason Raymond, Mikael Samuelsson and Pavol Demitra to Jannik Hansen, Steve Bernier and Michael Grabner, all sorts of players filled that hole.

But when the team inked Manny Malhotra, last year's faceoff-winning percentage leader, for three years last summer it finally got the gritty, responsible and prototypical third-liner it had missed so dearly in two playoff exits at the hands of Chicago.

To be sure, it's the top two lines that lift a team up and make it a credible lineup, but don't underestimate the third unit, because you don't win without a reliable one. Think back to past champions Detroit (Kris Draper), Dallas (Guy Carbonneau), New Jersey (Bobby Holik) and even recent winners Pittsburgh (Maxime Talbot) and Chicago (John Madden) and they all had third-line pivots who could 1) play strong and effective defensive hockey, including on the penalty kill, and 2) win faceoffs.

While Bernier would have been nice to keep around to play alongside Malhotra and there was talk Cody Hodgson may start the year there, having veteran Peter Schaefer, youngster Jannik Hansen or even Mikael Samuelsson, Raffi Torres or Alex Burrows — if Mason Raymond keeps clicking with the Sedins — on the third line provides the Canucks with a much better trio than they iced all last season.

In golf people stand in awe of the big drive that sails through the air and seems to go on and on forever — it's the most attractive part of the sport. And while being able to hit it long puts you ahead in the game, it's the little things like putting and chipping that make the biggest difference in your score.

Drive for show, putt for dough. With their glamour guys the Canucks have all the show they need, so they spent the summer putting together a third line they hope will finally bring home the dough after 40 years.

4 sports

Sports in brief

The NFL will begin suspending players for dangerous and flagrant hits, starting with this week's games, and meantime fined three players yesterday for their actions last weekend.

Pittsburgh Steeler James Harrison was docked $75,000 US, while the New England Patriots' Brandon Meriweather and the Atlanta Falcons' Dunta Robinson will lose $50,000 each.

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said the league wanted to give players fair warning before it begins suspensions for violent hits.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scan for code for sports

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Toronto	5	4	0	1	0	17	11	9	2-0-1-0	2-0-0-0	4-0-1-0	L1
d-Tampa Bay	5	4	1	0	0	17	18	8	2-0-0-0	2-1-0-0	4-1-0-0	W1
d-NY Islanders	6	3	1	1	1	20	17	8	2-0-0-1	1-1-1-0	3-1-1-1	W2
Washington	6	4	2	0	0	18	14	8	3-1-0-0	1-1-0-0	4-2-0-0	L1
Pittsburgh	7	4	3	0	0	23	16	8	2-3-0-0	2-0-0-0	4-3-0-0	W3
Montreal	5	3	1	1	0	14	13	7	1-0-1-0	2-1-0-0	3-1-1-0	W2
Boston	4	3	1	0	0	12	7	6	0-1-0-0	3-0-0-0	3-1-0-0	W3
Atlanta	5	3	2	0	0	17	16	6	1-0-0-0	2-2-0-0	3-2-0-0	W2
Carolina	5	3	2	0	0	14	14	6	1-0-0-0	2-2-0-0	3-2-0-0	W1
Philadelphia	5	2	2	1	0	11	14	5	1-2-0-0	1-0-1-0	2-2-1-0	L2
Florida	4	2	2	0	0	12	5	4	1-0-0-0	1-2-0-0	2-2-0-0	W2
NY Rangers	4	1	2	1	0	14	16	3	0-1-1-0	1-1-0-0	1-2-1-0	L3
Buffalo	6	1	4	1	0	12	18	3	0-3-1-0	1-1-0-0	1-4-1-0	L5
Ottawa	6	1	4	1	0	12	21	3	1-1-0-0	0-3-1-0	1-4-1-0	L2
New Jersey	6	1	4	1	0	10	21	3	0-3-1-0	1-1-0-0	1-4-1-0	L2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Chicago	7	4	2	1	0	23	20	9	2-2-0-0	2-0-1-0	4-2-1-0	W3
d-Dallas	5	4	1	0	0	20	15	8	2-0-0-0	2-1-0-0	4-1-0-0	L1
d-Colorado	6	4	2	0	0	19	19	8	1-0-0-0	3-2-0-0	4-2-0-0	W1
Nashville	5	3	0	2	0	13	10	8	2-0-2-0	1-0-0-0	3-0-2-0	L2
Detroit	5	3	1	0	1	14	12	7	1-0-0-1	2-1-0-0	3-1-0-1	W1
Los Angeles	4	3	1	0	0	10	6	6	2-0-0-0	1-1-0-0	3-1-0-0	W2
Calgary	5	3	2	0	0	9	11	6	2-1-0-0	1-1-0-0	3-2-0-0	W2
St. Louis	5	2	1	1	1	14	12	6	2-0-0-0	0-1-1-1	2-1-1-1	L3
Minnesota	5	2	2	0	1	16	13	5	2-2-0-0	0-0-0-1	2-2-0-1	W1
Vancouver	6	2	3	0	1	14	18	5	2-0-1-1	0-3-0-0	2-3-0-1	L1
Anaheim	6	2	3	0	1	13	23	5	2-0-0-1	0-3-0-0	2-3-0-1	W1
Edmonton	4	2	2	0	0	12	11	4	2-0-0-0	0-2-0-0	2-2-0-0	L2
Columbus	4	2	2	0	0	10	12	4	1-1-0-0	1-1-0-0	2-2-0-0	W1
San Jose	4	1	2	1	0	9	14	3	1-2-0-0	0-0-1-0	1-2-1-0	L3
Phoenix	4	1	2	1	0	8	10	3	0-1-1-0	1-1-0-0	1-2-1-0	L3

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's results
Boston 3 Washington 1
Calgary 1 Nashville 0 (OT)
Minnesota 6 Vancouver 2
Carolina 5 San Jose 2
Monday's results
N.Y. Islanders 2 Toronto 1 (OT)
Pittsburgh 5 Ottawa 2
Chicago 3 St. Louis 2 (OT)
Colorado 3 N.Y. Rangers 1
Tampa Bay 5 Dallas 4
Tonight's games
Buffalo at Atlanta, 7 p.m.
Anaheim at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Vancouver at Chicago, 9 p.m.
Carolina at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

FLAMES 1, PREDATORS 0 (OT)

First Period — No Scoring.
Penalty — Hagman Cal (high-sticking) 3:52.
Second Period — No Scoring.
Penalties — Jackman Cal (tripping) 2:51, Sullivan Nash (hooking) 7:10, Bouwmeester Cal (interference) 12:30, Nashville bench (too many men; served by Dumont) 14:23, White Cal (tripping) 16:37.
Third Period — No Scoring.
Penalty — Glencross Cal (goaltender interference) 14:12.
Overtime
1. Calgary, R.Bourque 1 (Morrison, White) 2:10
Penalties — None.
Shots

Calgary	12	6	14	3—35
Nashville	12	12	10	0—34

Goal — Calgary: Kiprusoff (W,3-2-0); Nashville: Rinne (L,1-0-1). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Calgary: 0-2; Nashville: 0-5.
Referees — Marc Joannette, Gord Dwyer.
Linesmen — Dan Schachte, Jonny Murray.
Attendance — 15,684 (17,113) at Nashville.

WILD 6, CANUCKS 2

First Period
1. Vancouver, D.Sedin 5 (H.Sedin, Edler) 0:58
2. Minnesota, Zidlicky 1 (Cullen, Miettinen) 6:04 (pp)
3. Minnesota, Latendresse 2 (Falk, Havlat) 7:20
4. Minnesota, Clutterbuck 2 (Latendresse, Havlat) 18:10 (pp)
Penalties — Clutterbuck Min (interference) 2:05, Ehrhoff Vcr (slashing) 5:29, Zanon Min (interference) 7:48, Rypien Vcr, Staubitz Min (fighting) 10:52, Samuelsson Vcr (cross-checking) 16:30.
Second Period
5. Minnesota, Madden 1 (Burns, Schultz) 7:54
6. Minnesota, Brunette 2 (Zidlicky, Miettinen) 12:21
7. Minnesota, Cullen 3 (Koivu, Zidlicky) 13:46 (pp)
Penalties — Nystrom Min (delay of game) 8:51, Rypien Vcr (double roughing, misconduct), Staubitz Min (roughing) 13:38, Cullen Min (hooking) 15:06.
Third Period
8. Vancouver, D.Sedin 6 (H.Sedin, Samuelsson) 18:31 (pp)
Penalties — Cullen Min (hooking) 2:04, Schultz Min (high-sticking) 18:10.
Shots

Vancouver	7	11	9	—27
Minnesota	11	7	6	—24

Goal (shots-saves) — Vancouver: Luongo (L,1-3-1)(18-12), C.Schneider (start third)(6-6); Minnesota: Backstrom (W,2-2-1). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Vancouver: 1-6; Minnesota: 3-3.
Referees — Chris Lee, Mike Leggo. **Linesmen** — Don Henderson, Michel Cormier.
Attendance — 16,806 (18,064) at St. Paul, Minn.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
Hossa, Chi	7	4	11
B.Richards, Dal	2	8	10
D.Sedin, Vcr	6	3	9
Stamkos, TB	5	4	9
H.Sedin, Vcr	0	9	9
Sharp, Chi	6	2	8
Crosby, Pgh	4	4	8
Ovechkin, Wash	4	4	8
Cullen, Minn	3	5	8
Getzlaf, Ana	2	6	8
Kopecky, Chi	1	7	8
Liles, Col	0	8	8
Kessel, Tor	5	2	7
C.Stewart, Col	5	2	7
Letestu, Pgh	4	3	7
Goligoski, Pgh	3	4	7
Neal, Dal	3	4	7
Martin, Pgh	1	6	7
Ribeiro, Dal	0	7	7
MacArthur, Tor	5	1	6
Morrow, Dal	5	1	6
Roy, Buf	5	1	6
Bailey, NYI	3	3	6
Comeau, NYI	3	3	6
Horton, Bos	3	3	6

MLB

2010 POST-SEASON

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

(BEST-OF-7)
(All times Eastern)
AMERICAN LEAGUE
Texas (W) vs. N.Y. Yankees (WC)
(Texas leads series 3-1)
Last night's result
Texas 10 N.Y. Yankees 3
Monday's result
Texas 8 N.Y. Yankees 0
Today's game
Texas at N.Y. Yankees, 4:07 p.m.
Friday's game
x-N.Y. Yankees at Texas, 8:07 p.m.
Saturday's game
x-N.Y. Yankees at Texas, 8:07 p.m.
NATIONAL LEAGUE
Philadelphia (E) vs. San Francisco (W)
(San Francisco leads series 2-1)
Yesterday's result
San Francisco 3 Philadelphia 0
Tonight's game
Philadelphia at San Francisco, 7:57 p.m.
Tomorrow's game
Philadelphia at San Francisco, 7:57 p.m.
Saturday's game
x-San Francisco at Philadelphia, 3:57 or 7:57 p.m.
Sunday's game
x-San Francisco at Philadelphia, 7:57 p.m.

GIANTS 3, PHILLIES 0

Philadelphia	ab	r	h	bi	San Francisco	ab	r	h	bi
Victorn cf	2	0	0	0	Renteri ss	4	1	1	0
Utley 2b	4	0	0	0	FSnchz 2b	3	0	1	1
Polanc 3b	4	0	0	0	Posey c	4	0	0	0
Howard 1b	4	0	1	0	Burrell lf	2	1	0	0
Werth rf	3	0	0	0	Schrlkt rf	0	0	0	0
Rollins ss	4	0	1	0	C.Ross rf-lf	3	0	1	1
Ibanez lf	4	0	0	0	A.Huff 1b	3	0	1	1
C.Ruiz c	2	0	1	0	Uribe 3b	3	0	0	0
Hamels p	2	0	0	0	Rownd cf	3	1	1	0
Gload ph	0	0	0	0	JaLopz p	0	0	0	0
Contrrs p	0	0	0	0	BrWlsn p	0	0	0	0
M.Cain p	2	0	0	0					
ATorrs ph-cf	1	0	0	0					
Totals	**29**	**0**	**3**	**0**	**Totals**		**28**	**3**	**5**	**3**

Philadelphia	000	000	000	—0
San Francisco	000	210	00x	—3

DP—San Francisco 1. LOB—Philadelphia 7, San Francisco 3. 2B—Rowand (1). SB—Victorino (1). S—F.Sanchez.

Philadelphia	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Hamels L,0-1	6	5	3	3	1	8
Contreras	2	0	0	0	0	1
San Francisco						
M.Cain W,1-0	7	2	0	0	3	5
Ja.Lopez H,2	1	0	0	0	0	1
Br.Wilson S,2-2	1	1	0	0	0	1

HBP—by M.Cain (Victorino, C.Ruiz).
Umpires—Home, Ted Barrett; First, Wally Bell; Second, Jeff Nelson; Third, Tom Hallion; Right, Dan Iassogna; Left, Derryl Cousins.
T—2:39. A—43,320 (41,915) at San Francisco.

NBA

PRE-SEASON

Last night's results
New York 117 New Jersey 111
Indiana 128 Minnesota 124 (OT)
Denver 130 Oklahoma City 115
Phoenix 92 Golden State 87
At Anaheim, Calif.
Utah 82 L.A. Lakers 74
At Cincinnati
Cleveland 111 Philadelphia 95
At Toledo, Ohio
Detroit 98 Washington 92
Sacramento at L.A. Clippers
Monday's results
Charlotte 102 Miami 96
Golden State 100 Portland 78
Memphis 96 New Orleans 91
Oklahoma City 111 San Antonio 102
Orlando 102 Atlanta 73

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE

ATLANTA BRAVES—Released OF Melky Cabrera and RHP Takashi Saito.
CHICAGO CUBS—Agreed to terms with manager Mike Quade on a two-year contract.
LOS ANGELES DODGERS—Signed LHP Ted Lilly to a three-year contract.
NEW YORK METS—Removed RHP Francisco Rodriguez from the disqualified list.
WASHINGTON NATIONALS—Promoted Mike Rizzo to executive vice president of baseball operations and general manager and signed him to a five-year contract.

BASKETBALL

NBA

CLEVELAND CAVALIERS—Waived G Danny Green.
NEW JERSEY NETS—Exercised contract options on C Brook Lopez and G-F Terrence Williams for the 2011-12 season.
SAN ANTONIO SPURS—Waived F James Gist.

FOOTBALL

NFL

LEAGUE OFFICE—Fined Pittsburgh LB James Harrison $75,000, New England S Brandon Meriweather and Atlanta CB Dunta Robinson $50,000 each for flagrant violations of player safety rules during Oct. 17 games.
CHICAGO BEARS—Released DE Charles Grant. Signed DE Barry Turner from the practice squad.
DENVER BRONCOS—Signed LB Diyral Briggs from the practice squad. Placed WR Matthew Willis on injured reserve. Signed WR Eron Riley to the practice squad.
HOUSTON TEXANS—Released OT Ephraim Salaam. Waived LB David Nixon.
JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS—Re-signed QB Todd Bouman. Released S Gerald Alexander.
MIAMI DOLPHINS—Signed FB Deon Anderson.
NEW YORK GIANTS—Signed WR Samuel Giguere to the practice squad. Terminated the contract of OL Dennis Landolt from the practice squad.
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS—Signed DE/LB Chris McCoy to the practice squad. Released DE James Wyche from practice squad.
TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS—Acquired DE Alex Magee and a 2011 undisclosed draft pick from Kansas City for a 2011 undisclosed draft pick. Placed RB Kareem Huggins on injured reserve.

HOCKEY

NHL

ANAHEIM DUCKS—Recalled D Danny Syvret from Syracuse (AHL).
ATLANTA THRASHERS—Assigned D Boris Valabik to Chicago (AHL). Re-assigned RW Ian McKenzie from Chicago (AHL) to Gwinnett (ECHL).
BOSTON BRUINS—Recalled G Adam Courchaine from Reading (ECHL). Assigned G Matt Dalton from Providence (AHL) to Reading.
CALGARY FLAMES—Claimed D Brendan Mikkelson off waivers from Anaheim (NHL). Assigned D T.J. Brodie to Abbotsford (AHL).
COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS—Placed D Mike Commodore on injured reserve, retroactive to Oct. 9. Recalled D Nick Holden from Springfield (AHL).
DALLAS STARS—Assigned C Aaron Gagnon to Texas (AHL).
PHOENIX COYOTES—Placed C Martin Hanzal on the injured reserve list. Recalled C Andrew Ebbett from San Antonio (AHL).

LACROSSE

NLL

EDMONTON RUSH—Signed T Devan Wray to a one-year contract.

SOCCER

MLS

PORTLAND TIMBERS—Signed G Steve Cronin, F Bright Dike, F Eddie Johnson and M Ryan Pore.

SOCCER

MLS

All Times Eastern

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pt
x-New York	29	14	9	6	36	29	48
x-Columbus	29	13	8	8	37	33	47
Kansas City	29	10	13	6	32	34	36
Chicago	29	8	12	9	33	37	33
New England	29	9	15	5	32	48	32
Toronto FC	29	8	13	8	30	39	32
Philadelphia	29	8	14	7	34	46	31
D.C. United	29	6	19	4	19	44	22

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pt
x-Los Angeles	29	17	7	5	42	25	56
x-Real Salt Lake	29	15	4	10	43	18	55
x-FC Dallas	29	12	3	14	41	26	50
x-Seattle	29	14	9	6	38	33	48
x-Colorado	29	12	8	9	42	30	45
x-San Jose	28	12	9	7	30	29	43
Houston	29	8	15	6	38	48	30
Chivas USA	28	8	16	4	30	38	28

Note: Three points for a win, one for a tie.
x — clinched playoff berth.
Tonight's game
Chivas USA at San Jose, 10 p.m.
Tomorrow's game
New England at New York, 7:30 p.m.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Yesterday's results
AS Roma 1 Basel 3
Bayern Munich 3 Cluj 2
Marseille 1 Zilina 0
Spartak Moscow 0 Chelsea 2
Ajax 2 Auxerre 1
Real Madrid 2 AC Milan 0
Arsenal 5 Shakhtar Donetsk 1
Braga 2 Partizan Belgrade 0

CONCACAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Last night's results
Toronto (MLS) 1 Arabe Unido (Panama) 0
Real Salt Lake (MLS) 3 Cruz Azul (Mexico) 1
Santos (Mexico) 6 Municipal (Guatemala) 1
Saprissa (Costa Rica) 2 Seattle (MLS) 1

CFL

WEEK 17

EAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pt
y-Montreal	15	11	4	0	477	375	22
x-Hamilton	15	8	7	0	396	369	16
Toronto	15	7	8	0	286	393	14
Winnipeg	15	4	11	0	411	407	8

WEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pt
x-Calgary	15	11	4	0	505	367	22
x-Saskatchewan	15	9	6	0	425	403	18
B.C.	15	5	10	0	384	397	10
Edmonton	15	5	10	0	304	477	10

x — clinched playoff berth; y — clinched division.
Friday's games
Montreal at Hamilton, 7 p.m.
B.C. at Calgary, 10 p.m.
Saturday's games
Toronto at Winnipeg, 4 p.m.
Saskatchewan at Edmonton, 7 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

	TD	C	FG	S	Pts
Maver, Cal	0	56	30	3	149
McCallum, BC	0	26	35	1	132
Duval, Mtl	0	37	30	4	131
DeAngelis, Ham	0	35	29	3	125
Congi, Sask	0	41	26	2	121
Prefontaine, Edm-Tor	0	25	22	2	93
Cates, Sask	15	0	0	0	90
Shaw, Tor	0	18	19	6	81
T.Edwards, Wpg	12	0	0	0	72
Palardy, Ham-Wpg	0	18	15	7	70
Bryant, Cal	11	0	0	0	66

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Jets	5	1	0	.833	159	101
New England	4	1	0	.800	154	116
Miami	3	2	0	.600	89	112
Buffalo	0	5	0	.000	87	161
SOUTH						
Houston	4	2	0	.667	153	167
Indianapolis	4	2	0	.667	163	125
Tennessee	4	2	0	.667	162	98
Jacksonville	3	3	0	.500	110	167
NORTH						
Pittsburgh	4	1	0	.800	114	60
Baltimore	4	2	0	.667	112	95
Cincinnati	2	3	0	.400	100	102
Cleveland	1	5	0	.167	88	125
WEST						
Kansas City	3	2	0	.600	108	92
Oakland	2	4	0	.333	120	151
Denver	2	4	0	.333	124	140
San Diego	2	4	0	.333	157	126

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	4	2	0	.667	134	118
Philadelphia	4	2	0	.667	153	120
Washington	3	3	0	.500	113	119
Dallas	1	4	0	.200	102	111
SOUTH						
Atlanta	4	2	0	.667	130	101
New Orleans	4	2	0	.667	130	108
Tampa Bay	3	2	0	.600	80	111
Carolina	0	5	0	.000	52	110
NORTH						
Chicago	4	2	0	.667	112	97
Green Bay	3	3	0	.500	139	112
Minnesota	2	3	0	.400	87	88
Detroit	1	5	0	.167	146	140
WEST						
Arizona	3	2	0	.600	88	138
Seattle	3	2	0	.600	98	97
St. Louis	3	3	0	.500	103	113
San Francisco	1	5	0	.167	93	139

WEEK SIX
Byes: Arizona, Buffalo, Carolina, Cincinnati
Monday's result
Tennessee 30 Jacksonville 3
WEEK SEVEN
Byes: Detroit, Houston, Indianapolis, N.Y. Jets
Sunday's games
Buffalo at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
Washington at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Cincinnati at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
Philadelphia at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Miami, 1 p.m.
St. Louis at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
San Francisco at Carolina, 1 p.m.
Arizona at Seattle, 4:05 p.m.
Oakland at Denver, 4:15 p.m.
New England at San Diego, 4:15 p.m.
Minnesota at Green Bay, 8:20 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 25
N.Y. Giants at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.

TENNIS

ATP IF STOCKHOLM OPEN

At Stockholm, Sweden
Singles — First Round
Florian Mayer, Germany, def. Feliciano Lopez (6), Spain, 6-2, 6-2.
James Blake, U.S., def. Thomaz Bellucci (7), Brazil, 3-6, 6-4, 6-4.
Ivan Dodig, Croatia, def. Tommy Robredo (8), Spain, 6-3, 6-2.
Taylor Dent, U.S., def. Michal Przysiezny, Poland, 6-2, retired.
Benjamin Becker, Germany, def. Thomas Schoorel, Netherlands, 6-3, 6-0.
Arnaud Clement, France, def. Olivier Rochus, Belgium, 6-0, 6-4.
Robin Haase, Netherlands, def. Filip Prpic, Sweden, 7-6 (4), 3-6, 6-4.

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Subaru adds more oomph to the WRX while keeping up excellent handling ◐ A sportier take on the standard family ride ◐ Subaru blurs line between STi and standard WRX

▶ The 2011 Subaru WRX comes in a four-door sedan and five-door hatch.

Subaru's WRX revs up family sedan market

PETER BLEAKNEY
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

For 2011, Subaru has given its sporty WRX a visual and dynamic shot in the arm, bringing it closer in line with its bigger bro, the 305 hp WRX STi.

Since getting bumped to 265 hp in 2009, the all-wheel-drive WRX has been nothing short of an understated rocket, but its underpinnings have erred on the soft side. Now both four-door sedan ($32,495) and five-door hatch ($33,395) get the STi's wide-body treatment. This goes a long way in kicking the WRX up a few rungs on the look-at-me ladder. About the only people not thrilled with this would be current STi owners — just ask my friend Steve.

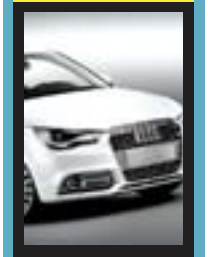
A wider track for both front and rear wheels helps fill the bulging haunches as do wider 17-inch performance tires — up from 225 mm to 235 mm. Factor in stiffer rear subframe bushings and the 2011 WRX is a sharper road tool. The chassis responds quickly to inputs from the nicely weighted steering, there is less body roll than before yet the ride remains compliant. The symmetrical all-wheel-drive is set to a 50:50 front to rear split — Subaru saves the fancy adjustable bias for the STi.

The WRX comes only as a five-speed manual. Purists rejoice. It's a good one too, featuring positive shifts and progressive clutch take up. Yes, a six-speed would be nice (again, saved for the STi) but this flat-four has a pretty broad torque spectrum (244 lb.-ft. at 4000 r.p.m.) so you're rarely caught flat footed. Fans of Subaru's off-beat exhaust growl will be happy as this audio signature is front and centre when the Nike hits the firewall. And with a zero-100 km/h time of 5.4 seconds, this puppy flies.

The 2011 WRX gets revised interior trim, standard Bluetooth with steering wheel controls, USB media interface, freshened gauge cluster, new 17-inch wheels, one touch up/down driver's window and quad tailpipes. My tester featured the $3000 Limited Package that adds leather, fog lights, power sunroof and Sirius satellite radio with a 3-month subscription. In this time of the homogenized family sedan, the 2011 Subaru WRX makes for an intriguing option. Well priced, comfortable, quite roomy and hugely entertaining, this all-wheel-drive sedan comes fully equipped with buckets of character.

5 drive

Drive in brief



It's already exciting enough imagining the Audi A1 on the road, but you could be driving an electric version in the next few years.

Audi is testing 20 prototypes of an all-electric Audi A1 with a top speed of 81mph, on the roads of Munich by mid-2011 and 200 powering stations delivering "green electricity" will be built. It won't be the first Audi EV into production, that will be the sports car concept first shown at the 2009 Frankfurt Show, set for a late-2012 launch. ◐ METRO

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Suzuki's fun family ride

- XL7 offered real off-road capability, size and value
- Should hold up as a solid vehicle for years to come

SECOND GEAR

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

Suzuki is a small brand that's huge on fun, recreation and creating some of the most popular machines in the enthusiast off-road community. With a product portfolio including cars, 4x4's and an arsenal of recreational vehicles, the Japanese brand has earned a loyal following of repeat shoppers.

The Suzuki XL7 was a family-ready 4x4 model that offered reasonable pricing and a rarity in the family SUV marketplace: real-world off-road prowess. Packed with a transfer-case 4x4 system, low-range gearing and a tough body-on-frame construction, it was ideal for shoppers after top levels of confidence on the road less travelled. Many of XL7's owners say it impressed as an all-around performer that's happy to tow a boat or tackle a trail.

Under the hood, look for a 2.7-liter V6 engine with 170 to 185 horsepower, depending on the year in question. Earlier models in the 2001 to 2006 generation got a five-speed manual transmission as standard, while a four or five-speed automatic was otherwise available or standard depending on the year.

The specs

- **MODEL** 2001 to 2006 Suzuki XL7
- **VEHICLE TYPE** 4x4 SUV
- **APPROXIMATE USED PRICE RANGE** $4,000 to $12,000

What owners like

Overall value, pricing, the manual-shift transfer case, the availability of a manual transmission and seven-passenger seating were some of the most common praise-points from existing XL7owners. Ride quality, interior comfort, visibility and all-surface traction were highly rated by owners, too.

What owners hate

Common gripes are relatively scarce, and centre around awkward placement of some interior controls and the lack of a rear window release to open it separately of the tailgate. Finally, as with virtually any SUV, most drivers wish for better mileage.

Common issues

Have the underside inspected for signs of excessive rust, scraping, dents or other damaged caused by careless off-roading. A thorough underbody inspection by a mechanic can also quickly reveal issues with chassis or suspension components, as well as fluid leaks that could indicate larger problems. Ensure the four-wheel drive transfer case system can engage and disengage all 4x4 modes as expected, too.

Use a flashlight to inspect for signs of oil leaking down the front or side of the engine. This may indicate a variety of gasket-related problems that could be pricey to fix.

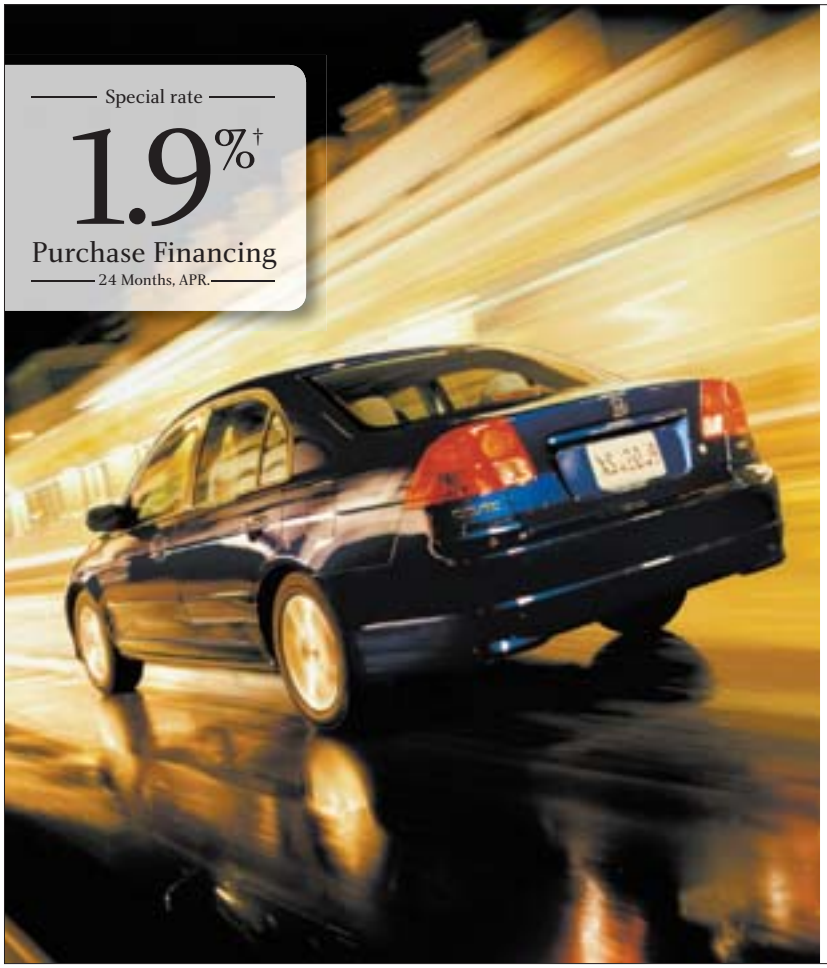
Listen to the engine idle, and remember that any excessive grinding or clicking sounds could be caused by a bad timing chain tensioner, which is another pricey repair. The latter two issues seem to affect earlier XL7 models only, but are still worth checking into.

Other checks should include the air conditioner, all cabin electronics, all windows and door latches, and the vehicle's tires and brakes.

The verdict

End of the day, an affordable used XL7 that passes all pre-purchase inspections should deliver high-capability, high-value and worry-free travels for years to come.

▶ The 2001-2006 Suzuki XL7 comes in a five-speed manual and a four or five-speed automatic.



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4MATIC is keeping things simple

Mercedes-Benz's all-wheel system uses the brains of the car Response speed increased

Mercedes-Benz's Christopher Goczan says there is a "simplicity" to the 4MATIC systems.

DRIVING FORCE

JIL McINTOSH
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

Systems that send power to all four wheels certainly aren't new, but in recent years they've made considerable progress in technology. Such is the case with the latest version of Mercedes-Benz's 4MATIC all-wheel system, first seen in 2007 on the S-Class, and now available on the C-, E- and CL-Class.

"What makes this generation special, versus what else is out there, is the simplicity of the system," says Christopher Goczan, product planning manager for Mercedes-Benz Canada. "It does away with the traditional differential locks, and uses the brains of the car to move torque around."

The 4MATIC system works with the car's traction and electronic stability control systems, monitoring the wheels to determine which ones are getting the most traction. The system sends 55 per cent of torque to the rear axle in normal driving conditions, but if necessary, it can deliver full power to just one wheel in order to help the driver maintain control.

"You're talking about a system that measures in milliseconds," Goczan says. "In that millisecond that it detects you're getting traction again, it will let off. It would never let you lose control of the vehicle."

Detecting within milliseconds makes the 4MATIC system faster than a mechanical system, which can have a slight lag between the time it perceives slippage and then reacts to it. It also helps make the Mercedes-Benz system smaller and lighter: it weighs only 70 kg, compared to 120 kg for the older Mercedes system it replaces. Since more weight means more fuel, all-wheel systems tend to get poorer mileage, but the lighter system creates less of a fuel consumption penalty — only about 0.7 L/100 km compared with an equivalent rear-wheel-drive system, Goczan says.

Its smaller size also means more interior space: unlike many all-wheel systems, which protrude into the floor pan with a resulting loss of foot room for the front-seat passenger, cars equipped with the new 4MATIC system look no different inside than their rear-wheel siblings.

Goczan says that with many all-wheel systems, the driver can sometimes feel the system binding. "In tight areas, you can really feel that the driveline is doing something different, and it's not feeling natural," he says. "Our approach is that it has to be seamless, and that's the heart of the system. The traction and stability control are monitoring constantly so they can vary the mechanical impulses, and they control them so well that essentially, the driver never knows what's really happening. You don't know how much 4MATIC is doing in rain or snow. It's simplicity in the driving experience."

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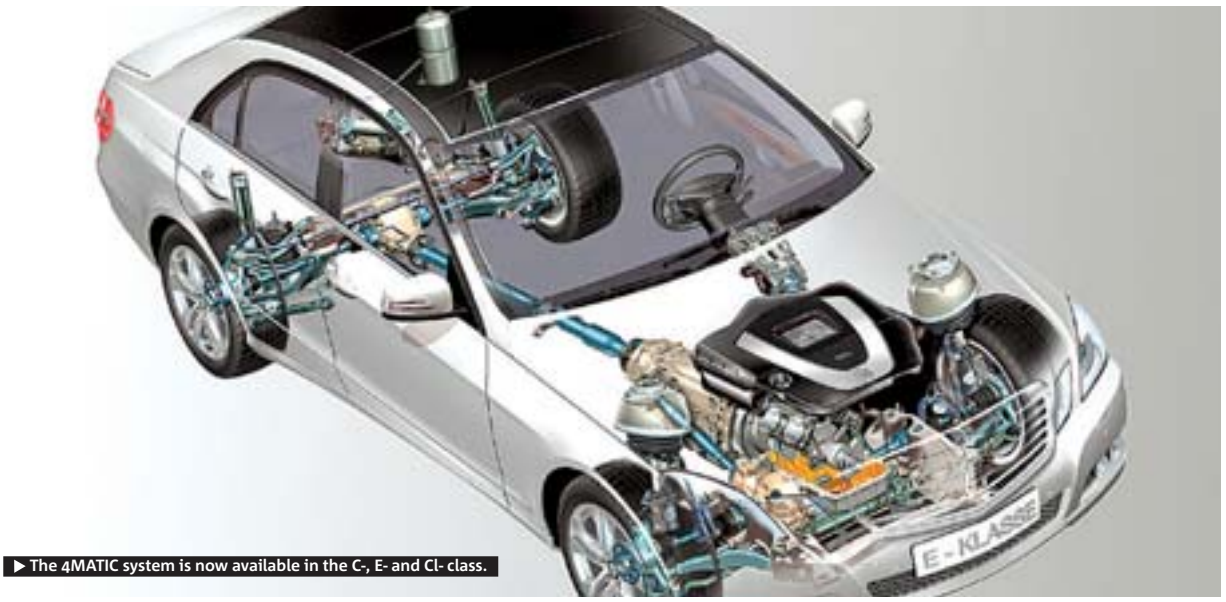

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HYBRIDS: LOOKING FOR A FEW MORE BUYERS

Auto Pilot
M GOETZ
DRIVE@METROEWS.CA

Hybrids have arrived, yes? Well, me thinks "yes" and "no." Hybrid technology has certainly arrived.

They have proven to be more reliable and durable than originally perceived.

And the technology keeps getting better. Consider the just-introduced 2011 Hyundai Sonata Hybrid, which flaunts the world's first automotive application of a lithium polymer battery pack (developed with its battery partner, and fellow Korean company, LG Chem).

Their advantages over the nickel metal hydride battery packs in other midsize hybrids are many: more efficient; more compact; lighter; better cooling properties (requiring only air cooling system, instead of heavier liquid cooling).

Unlike nickel metal hydride cells, or even lithium ion cells used in computers, which are cylindrical in shape, lithium polymer cells have a flat rectangle shape like a thin stack of paper. Seventy two of these rectangle cells are wired in series to produce a 1.4 kilowatt-hour battery back weighing less than 100 pounds.

And I'm sure you've seen the advertising campaign for the Sonata Hybrid, which is on current and heavy rotation on television.

It makes much of the fact that the commercial was made with a "zero carbon footprint."

The Sonata Hybrid doesn't arrive in Canada until January — still a few months away.

How many of these technology and fuel-efficient wonders does Hyundai expect to sell each in 2011, and every year after that? About 300 to 500.

That seems like a small number, eh? But it corresponds to how hybrids variants currently fare in the overall midsize segment.

Currently Camry, Fusion, Malibu, and Altima, are all available with hybrid versions, where they comprise only three per cent of overall midsize sales. (Four-cylinder midsizers dominate with a 71 per cent share, while six-cylinder midsizers account for the remaining 26 per cent).

The line on why they remain a niche product is that fuel prices are too low — that the rationale for purchase is based solely on calculations on how a hybrid's higher initial costs will be offset by its lower fuel costs over the ownership period.

What this says to me is that buyers will always pay a premium for style, power, luxury, brand, etc., but not, apparently, for the ability make a smaller carbon footprint. At least not yet.

Also at work, I think, are fears about any vehicle with an expensive-to-replace battery.

Whatever the case, hybrids are still lurking in that middle ground, between "glad to meet you" and "let's do lunch."

▶ The ad campaigns for the Hyundai Sonata Hybrid is fun, but at the end of the day car buyers are opting to keep the green in their wallet rather than pay a premium for a car that has a smaller carbon footprint.

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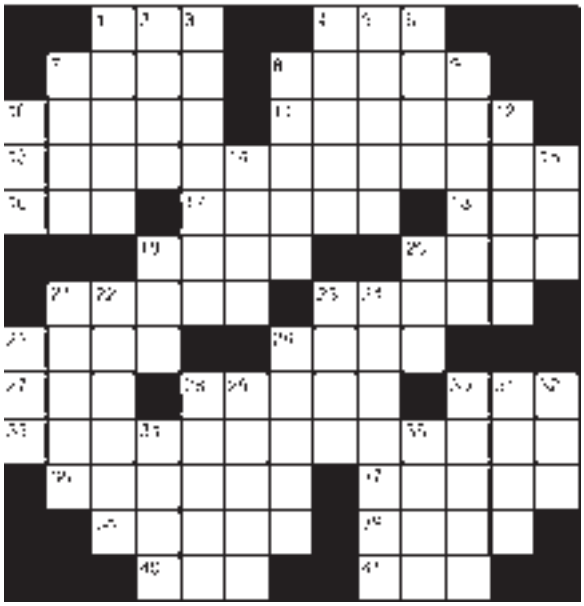


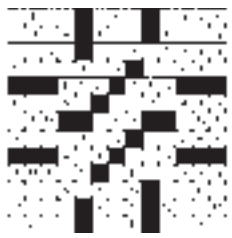
Across

1 Mid-June honoree
4 Mid-May honoree
7 Took the trolley
8 Was concerned
10 Hawkeye
11 Sports venues
13 1- and 4-Across, usually
16 Snoop
17 All but one in a million?
18 Favorite
19 Take out of context?
20 Entreaty
21 Prudent
23 Armada
25 PBS science show
26 Tea time, perhaps
27 Lawyers' org.
28 Throw
30 Winter ailment
33 13-Across, initially
36 Graduates
37 Man of morals?
38 Hits hard
39 Heart of the matter
40 Before
41 Away from WSW

Down

1 Bride's bounty
2 Hebrew month
3 Inhabitant
4 — Polo
5 Sandwich treats
6 Carte
7 Bellow
8 Band of fighters
9 Spotted horse
10 Mischief-maker
12 Winter forecast
14 Slithery
15 Greek vowel
19 Modern-day evidence
20 Apiece
21 Deadly snake
22 Makes use (of)
23 Loving
24 Suitcases
25 Apprehend
26 The end
28 Leg bone
29 "Blue Sky" Oscar winner Jessica
30 "Cabaret" director Bob
31 Swag
32 Ref
34 "Psych" actor Hill
35 Check

▶ Yesterday's answer



Sudoku

7								1
5			2		6			9
		1	7	3	8	2		
	7		8		3		1	
	4						9	
	3		1		5		7	
		9	4	2	1	8		
8			5		9			4
6								5

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

3	7	4	8	2	9	6	5	1
2	9	5	7	1	6	8	4	3
8	1	6	3	5	4	7	9	2
7	2	3	9	4	1	5	8	6
5	8	9	6	3	7	2	1	4
4	6	1	2	8	5	9	3	7
9	4	8	1	7	2	3	6	5
6	5	7	4	9	3	1	2	8
1	3	2	5	6	8	4	7	9

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Show some love! Send a note to somebody special at kiss@metronews.ca

My dearest Kranberry, you are my life and I don't know how I could ever live without you. We share so many interests, from dodge ball, snowboarding and martial arts to our love of great literature. I couldn't ask for a better mate! Enjoy your morning Sudoku puzzle my love, I hope you see this! Yours always, **K**

Happy Anniver. booboo! We have been through so much in the last 2 yrs. U r my love, my world, my air, my soul n my heart n every sec that we r apart I am not complete. U r the one I promise u n I hope to spend my whole life with u celebrating the 13 always. **LOVE YOU DOSHI**

To my Jbear. Hope you'll be able to see this. Never stop smiling and I hope to have many great memeries with you :) Your the best. **GILLIBEANS**

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 Do whatever it takes to stay positive, even though your sixth sense is telling you something is not right. Your instincts are not infallible and this time they are way off course.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 A relationship that no longer brings you anything in the way of emotional or physical satisfaction is taking up far too much of your time and energy. So end it. Sometimes you have to be ruthless.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 Some people can be extraordinarily annoying, especially when they change their minds. When traveling or socializing make your own plans and not rely on friends or family.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 You may want to give up on something that is more difficult than you anticipated but if you do you will hate yourself. What's a bit of pain when the rewards are so great?

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 Is someone trying to avoid you? Maybe, but there is no need to get paranoid about it because the issue isn't about you. They just need some time to themselves so they can get their head around recent changes.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 At some stage today you will begin to wonder if you have bitten off more than you can chew. It's quite possible you have but it's also too late to do anything about it.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Don't worry if a long-term project seems to have stalled. The fact that it is long-term means you'll have plenty of time to come back to it later. Give yourself a short-term break.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 Mercury, planet of the mind, moves into your sign today, giving you a `clearer vision of the kind of person you want to be and the kind of goals you want to be aiming for.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Someone you love is oddly unresponsive at the moment – whatever you say or do to spark their interest just doesn't seem to be working. Stop trying so hard and take the hint.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 In recent weeks you succeeded by being assertive, even aggressive, but now you must be more co-operative. Get together with like-minded people and create something extraordinary.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 No matter how much you may have done for someone in the past you cannot go on doing the same things forever. Make sure they know your assistance has a time limit on it.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 Mercury moves into one of the more insightful areas of your chart today and you will begin to notice connections that were not so obvious before.

SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest

BAS CZERWINSKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WIN!

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Write a funny caption for the image to the right and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

MISHA JAPARIDZE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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